



PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Aims:

Understand that:

- 1) We are all loved by God.
- 2) Though alike in many ways, we all have different looks, talents and tastes.
- 3) God will have a unique path for each of our lives.
- 4) We must remain close to God to hear what He asks of us.

Activity:

Prior to activity, produce sheets for the class with lines dividing it into 4 sections, with labels that read:

	SAME	DIFFERENT
FOOD		
GAMES		

Pair off the children and guide them through the exercise (filling out the sheet for them). The children are to talk about the category names in each Row and they are to find 2 food items that they feel the same about (both like or both dislike) and 2 food items that they feel differently about (one likes but other dislikes). Then do the same for Games.

Perhaps have them share what they learned about the other member of their pair with the group. Guide them to recognize that while we share things in common with everyone, we are all different in some ways too. We all have a family, but each family is different. We all have talents, but each person has a different set.

Likewise, God wants us all to be saints in heaven some day, but the paths we each will take may differ.

Saints have had different paths to heaven (Web Resources page has website listings for each of the saints below):

- Blessed Mother Teresa was a religious sister who helped poor people in India.
- St. Therese of Liseux, the Little Flower, was a religious sister who lived inside convent walls and prayed all the time.
- St. John Vianney was a parish priest who spent many hours a day hearing confessions.
- St. Gianna Molla was a medical doctor, wife and mother who died after giving birth to her 4th child rather than save herself by getting rid of her baby.
- Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was a wealthy single man who gave away nearly all of his fortune to the poor.

Guide them to see that, though they took different paths to heaven, they all prayed to Jesus each day. They all went to Mass each week. They all tried their best each day to be close to God and go where He wanted them to go. We're all called to do the same thing, to be saints.

Songs for Closing Prayer:

God Is Calling (sung to Frère Jacques)

God is calling (put one hand to side of mouth, "calling" gesture)

God is calling

"Come this way!" (hand wave, "come here" gesture)

"Come this way!"

Follow where he leads you (arms swing and step in place)

Follow where he leads you

Sing and pray (hands to sides of mouth on "sing", fold together at chest on "pray")

Sing and pray

God is calling (one hand to side of mouth again)

God is calling

Can you hear? (one hand cupped to ear)

Can you hear?

Listen for His voice now (with hand still on ear, turn head from left to right)

Listen for His voice now

He is near. (at "He", hands point up to heaven, at "near", fold across chest).

He is near.

God Wants Us (sung to Row Row Row Your Boat)

God wants us in heav'n (point to heaven with both hands above head)

For eternity (hands move from above head to sides, tracing out curve over head)

Help me, help me, help me, Lord (hands folded in prayer)

to find Your path for me (at "to find" one hand over eyes in "searching" gesture & at "for me", point to self).