



PRIMARY LESSON PLAN

Aim:

1. Students will learn that God calls all of us to be saints, that is our destiny (heaven = destination).
2. Though God wants us all in heaven, He has a unique "map" for each of us.
3. The saints were normal people just like us. They chose to follow God's "map" with their lives.
4. God is the source of all true, lasting happiness, so we will be happiest in life if we follow God's plan.

Resources/Materials:

Activity 1: Masking tape. A big paper bag. 1 small chair. 4 bowls (3 small and 1 large). Candy or prizes of some sort which vary in value: the 3 small bowls should be filled with things of lesser value (e.g. single pieces of candy) while the big bowl has things that are VERY valuable (bags of candy, big candy bar, whatever will work best with your kids).

Activity 2: Primary Worksheets (copied onto heavy durable paper), scissors, fasteners.

Activity 3: Need either access to the computer or printouts from the vocation website www.cincinnati.vocations.org.

Activity 1: Knowing your destination

- ❖ Before students arrive, with the masking tape, create a path on the ground that splits into a total of 6 paths. In the middle of 3 of the paths are the small candy/prize bowls, while the other 3 paths have no small prize bowl on them. The 3 paths WITH candy bowls end after curving away from a big paper bag that is sitting on a small chair and is stapled shut (on the bag is written "Destination"). The 3 paths WITHOUT candy bowls all reach to the "Destination" chair. The "Destination" bag contains the bowl of big treats/prizes.
- ❖ Share with the children that when we take a trip, we need to know where we're going or we can't really start. On the floor are routes that can be taken. Split the group in half with half walking the path and choosing a route first, while the other half watches from the side. They are told that at the fork, they must pick one of the roads and stay on it. If a candy/prize bowl is in their path, they can take one as they pass. If they come to the end of the road, they must stop and wait.
- ❖ More than likely, most in this first half will pick a candy-laden path and therefore must stop before the destination.
- ❖ When group 1 has stopped their movement, ask them why they picked the routes they did. If you have a couple of kids that chose a non-candy route, that's great. Now, open the bag and show them what was at the final destination that they could not see. Now they can see the BIG candy at the end of the other routes.
- ❖ Now let the other half pick. Most should pick a route to the Destination chair where they get the better prize.

Guide them to see the following points:

- # Our lives are like the trip you took in the room. We have a destination, and it's a wonderful one. Our destination is heaven. In heaven, we'll find joys and delights greater than anything on earth.
- # God sent us Jesus to let us know how wonderful heaven is and to open up the routes to heaven for us.
- # We choose our paths. When the first group didn't know what was in the destination bag, many chose the paths with small candies on them. In life, if we forget to focus on our destiny in heaven, we can get lost chasing after things here on earth that aren't nearly as nice as what heaven will have.
- # When the second group got to see the great things in the destination bag, they chose to go that route. Jesus taught us how wonderful heaven is, and if we focus on that, we'll choose a path that leads to him. We'll be happiest when we do that.

- # There was more than one path to the destination. In life, we're all called by God to make it to heaven, to be a saint like Mother Teresa or St. Peter. The saints have taken different paths to heaven. Some have been married, some have been priests, some have been religious sisters or brothers, some have been deacons and some have been single.
- # Explain that God has a path in mind for us that he'd like us to follow. He wants some of us to be married, but others He is going to call to be priests and religious. We need to keep our eyes on heaven and keep praying to Jesus to figure out what He wants. And that way, we'll be the happiest.

Then introduce some people, including saints who took different routes (if your school has a patron saint, use them too):

- 1) Sts. Lawrence and Stephen (deacons)-mention your parish deacon(s) if you have one.
- 2) Sts. Maximilian Kolbe, Padre Pio and Martin De Porres (religious priests & brothers)
- 3) St. Therese of Liseux and Blessed Mother Teresa and any sisters they might know (religious sisters)
- 4) St. Kateri Tekakwitha and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (single)
- 5) Sts. Jose Maria Escriva and John Vianney and your pastor (diocesan priests)
- 6) Sts. Thomas More and Gianna Molla and their parents (married people)

Activity 2: Daily Prayer Circles

- Remind the students that it is very important to pray daily.
- Ask the students what they pray for. Often the prayers are "asking" prayers. Do they pray for what OTHERS need too?
- Write on the chalk board the different kinds of vocations: single, deacon, priest, vowed religious, married. Introduce the Prayer Circle as a reminder to pray for many different people, and especially for young people to discover the vocation God wants them to choose.
- Color the prayer circles. Then cut out the patterns (top and bottom). Insert a paper fastener in the middle of the patterns.
- Each day during Vocation Awareness week (and all during the year) pray for different vocations.

Activity 3: Website Activities

The children can be guided to the site, or you can download and print out the necessary materials ahead of time.

1. Different paths to Priesthood

at www.cincinnati vocations.org/hearing_others.shtml, there are the stories of 10 different men who became priests (Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and 8 recently ordained priests in Archdiocese of Cincinnati). Have them look to answer the following questions:

- o Whose mother wanted him to be a doctor?
- o Who was born in a different country?
- o Who came from a family of 13 kids?
- o Who was an actor before becoming a priest?
- o Who was a professional beach volleyball player?
- o Who worked as an academic counselor at a college?

2. Different activities of Religious orders

under www.cincinnati vocations.org/religious_orders.shtml, there are links to nearly 50 male religious websites and over 60 female religious websites. Have the kids look at two sites for men and two sites for women and see how the orders differ.

For example, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville are teachers, and the Little Sisters of the Poor run homes for the elderly poor. Have them identify the differences in work and dress between 2 female and 2 male orders.