



VOCA TIONS
ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Pre-school Lesson Plan
"You are a Priest Forever" Psalm 110

Session 1

Purpose:

1. The students will demonstrate understanding of the term "vocation" or calling, particularly as it relates to the priesthood and religious life.
2. The students will demonstrate understanding of the term "Year for Priests."

Supplies:

- Children's Bible
- Construction paper
- Crayons/markers
- Netting (optional)
- Small pre-cut fish
- **Song Sheet**

Discussion:

1. Begin the discussion by asking the children if they know the word "vocation"; define it as a call from God. Ask about ways to listen to God.
2. Show them a children's Bible and explain it is the Word of God. Read Matthew 4:18-22. Explain that just as Jesus called St. Peter and the apostles to follow Him, the priesthood continues to this day as a call from God. Help students understand that we all need to listen to how and where God is calling us, then we pray & respond. For some it may be the priesthood or religious life!
3. Explain the term "Year for Priests:" a year set apart to understand, honor, and appreciate what a priest is all about. Ask the students to share, in their own words, how we might celebrate the Year for Priests.

Activities:

1. Let the students play a game of Follow the Leader or Simon Says; each student gets a turn to be the leader. Stress that each child needs to listen carefully and do what the leader asks. Remind them that is how they need to listen to God and do what He asks.
2. The students may make a picture of a net with fish. Write "...they left their nets and followed Him. – Matthew 4:18-22" on the picture.
3. Teach the song **God is Calling** with actions (see below).

Conclude:

1. We all are called by God in our lives and we must listen closely and pray about what God is asking. God calls some to be priests. We do our best wherever God calls us. For the "Year for Priests," we work to understand and appreciate our priests.
2. Sing the song **God is Calling** at the end of the day.

Session 2

Purpose:

1. The students will demonstrate understanding of the role of the priest at Mass: bringing us the Eucharist.

Supplies:

- Crayons
- **Last Supper Coloring Sheet**
- Plastic baggies
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Several photos of priests during Liturgy of the Eucharist (may be found in old First Communion workbooks, etc.)
- Song Sheet

Discussion:

1. Show the students the coloring sheet of the Last Supper. Ask them if it reminds them of something they experience (Mass). Tell them the priest takes on the role of Jesus at Mass during the Consecration and speaks the words of Jesus: "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you." "Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant." Show them pictures of the priest elevating the host and chalice.

Activities:

1. Give the students the **Last Supper Coloring Sheet** to color or paint.
2. As a follow-up activity, the coloring sheets may be cut into 5 or 6 large pieces and placed in a baggie with each child's name on it. Tell them to put the puzzle together (assist as needed). Give the students a piece of construction paper and a glue stick. Ask them to glue the puzzle pieces on the construction paper and put the "puzzle" together.
3. Teach the song **God Wants Us** with actions (see below).

Conclude:

1. The priest is like Jesus – even speaking the same words as He did at the Last Supper – during Mass at the Consecration.
2. Sing the song **God Wants Us** at the end of the day.

Session 3

Purpose:

1. The students will demonstrate understanding of their role in supporting priests.

Supplies:

- Card stock
- Ribbon
- Glue sticks
- Photos or other prints of local parish priests, Archbishop, Pope Benedict XVI
- Large tablet or white board and markers

Discussion:

1. Ask students if they think their parents pray for them. Explain that parents pray for their children and children should pray for their parents. Then ask if they think their parish priest prays for them. Explain to students that prayer is something a priest does for his parish and that the Archbishop and the Pope pray for all of us, too.
2. Ask them if they think they should pray for their priests, Archbishop, Pope. (Yes!)

Activities:

1. Ask students to help compose a prayer asking God to bless our priests and thanking God for what they do for our Church. (Do this as a class, getting input from students as they are able.) Write the prayer on a large tablet or white board. (Type the prayer and print out for use in activity #2 below.)
2. Give students photos of local parish priests, the Archbishop and the Pope. They may be pre-cut or the students may cut them out. Let students glue the photos on card stock. The class prayer may be glued on the reverse side, making a prayer card. Students may be encouraged to bring a prayer card to their parish priest as a way of thanking him for his service to the Church.
3. Add the prayer cards to a classroom prayer table and give students the opportunity to pray specifically for priests during the day.

Conclude:

1. Priests pray for us and we pray for our priests. It is important to tell our priests (in our parish, school, etc) that we are thankful for them.
2. Sing **God is Calling** or **God Wants Us** at the end of the day. Send the song lyrics home encouraging them to sing and discuss them with their parents.
3. To expand on this lesson, use VAW materials from previous years at various times throughout the year.

Song Sheet

God is Calling (sung to "*Frere 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 (same as above)
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 down 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 and at "for me," point to self).