

Made for Greatness

Called to love

Grades 6-8: Lesson 1

Goal: Students will identify the ability to love as humanity's greatest dignity and joy. They will recall that God has a design for each person's life which will lead them to the greatest happiness and holiness.

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-16

“For you formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know. My bones are not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me unformed; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be.”

Catechism: YOUCAT #324

Are we all supposed to become “saints”? **Yes. The purpose of our life is to be united with God in love and to correspond entirely to God’s wishes. We should allow God “to live his life in us” (Mother Teresa.) That is what it means to be holy; a “saint”. (CCC 2012-2016, 2028-2029)** Every man asks himself the question: Who am I and why am I here, how do I find myself? Faith answers: Only in holiness does man become that for which God created him. Only in holiness does man find real harmony between himself and his creator.

Lesson:

1. Watch: “You’re Kind of a Big Deal” (2 min)- introduces the idea that although we may feel small in this world, spiritually, we’re MASSIVE! Chris Stefanick asks, “Can an ocean love, a mountain know, or a galaxy chose to change directions? No, but you can. And you’ll still be around long after all this has passed.”
Discussion Questions: What makes you so important? Why are you such a ‘big deal’?
Sample answers: We have immortal souls and the capacity to love.
2. Scripture Read Psalm 139:13-16 Discuss how this Scripture passage answers the discussion questions above.
Sample answers: We are created in love by God and He has a plan for our lives.
3. Watch: the “Testimony of David Robinson NBA Basketball Hall of Fame” (8 mins)
This NBA Star reflects on what is most important in his life and his journey of faith.
Discuss the counter-cultural way in which David Robinson has found real happiness. Use student handout for group discussion or personal reflection.
4. Discuss the importance of finding and following the way which God calls us to give ourselves in love. Introduce and define the term **vocation**: *Vocation means a call. It is God’s invitation- His call to each person to love and serve Him and His Church in a particular state or way of life. Each person’s vocation flows from the grace of Baptism.*

5. Homework/ A Step Beyond: Today's Scripture passage was written for and about you. This evening, share this passage with at least one member of your family. Write a prayer thanking God for creating you in love and asking him what his designs are for your life.
6. Close with prayer.

Prayer:

O Lord, help me know your will for my life. Let your light shine in the depths of my heart that I may know what you want me to do with my life. Help me believe that you have a special plan for me.

Lord, I know I pass through this life only once; help me decide how you want me to make a difference. Like our Blessed Mother, give me the wisdom to hear your voice and the courage to answer your call. Above all give me peace of mind and heart. I offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-for-vocations.cfm>