

Called to be Leaven in the World

God's plan for married people

Grades K-2 Lesson 2

Goal: Students will identify vocations within the Church. They will explain how some people help the Church by being married.

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you...”

Catechism: 1604 “God who created man out of love also calls him to love the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love. Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the *absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man*”

Lesson:

Opening: *Children repeat prayer after teacher-* "Dear God, before I was even born you knew me! You loved me so much that you wanted me to come to be a part of my family and to have friends. Thank you for calling me to help you bring more people into heaven. Help me to listen and do what you desire so that others will come to know you better. Amen."

Instruction:

1. Use one of the children's name and say: "Johnny, please stand up." Ask "Is there another Johnny just like this Johnny in the room? **No.**" "Susanna, please stand up." Ask "Is there another Susanna exactly the same in every way to our Susanna?" **No.** God created us each very special and he called you and me to serve him in different ways.
2. These are some ways that God can call you to serve him and others. (write on the board or show pictures of each vocation) "He calls some men to be priests, He calls some woman to be religious sisters or nuns and he calls some men and woman to love each other and get married so they can raise a family."
We don't always know exactly what God calls us to be but he tells us especially as we pray and listen.
3. Today we are going to recall a story that you already know and we are going to see how God calls some to be mother's and father's to form a family with love.
Read the story of Creation from a children's Bible while using a pre-made set of craft stick puppets for this story (resources Day 2) OR
Watch: God's Good Creation (5:07) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PBpCA2nxG8
4. Emphasize the fact that man and woman were made in the image of God and he saw that man needed a companion and created a woman.
Discussion: Who were the first man and woman? **Adam and Eve**
If God is all powerful (fist and arms in an L position) and he can make and do anything he desires does he need to have Adam and Eve doing things for Him? **No.**

So why did God create them? ...**Because he loved us and wanted us to love and serve Him.** *Explain* that God wanted Adam and Eve to love each other and help each other go to heaven. He also wanted them to have children and take care of them so that they can teach others about God too and they can build a kingdom for the Jesus, the King of heaven and earth.

God wants families like yours to love him. He needs mothers and fathers to love each other and help each other get to heaven. Parents take care of their children and teach them about God.

5. *Holy Family*: The best example of a holy mom and dad is Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph. Mary and Joseph loved each other very much and they loved Jesus with all their hearts. Mary and Joseph taught him all about God and the stories of God's love for them. Joseph taught Jesus how to serve as a carpenter and how to take care of Mary. They also took Jesus to the temple and Jesus loved to pray to his Father in heaven. Mary and Joseph gave Jesus great love.
6. *Zélie and Louis*: Another example of a mom and dad that taught their children a lot about God was the parents of Saint Therese of Lisieux, Zélie and Louis Martin.
Watch: Story of Therese's parents (1:59) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SZdX-d97aw> Saint Therese and her sisters had a beautiful example of love in their parents who sacrificed (forgot about themselves to do good for others and God) to raise a beautiful family.

Craft: Make and color stick puppets to take home Adam and Eve in craft stick puppets
<http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/Bible-Themes-Adam-and-Eve.html#stage>

Homework/A Step Beyond: Take craft stick puppets and perform the story of Adam and Eve for your parents. Share that God wanted Adam and Eve to be married so that they can have a family and teach their children how to love God.

Prayer:

Let us pray for your parents and for all those who are married and will be called to be married: "God our Father, we love you and praise you for being our Father. We thank you for giving us parents and for their love. Help us to pray and listen to your call for our lives and to always live to help others to know you. Be with our families every day. You are welcome in our homes. Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us."