

Called to be Leaven in the World

God's Plan for Marriage and Family

Grades 3-5 Lesson 2

Goal: Students will identify the vocations within the Church. They will explain how married couples serve the Church by witnessing to God's love.

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Catechism: Youth Catechism #260 “God disposed man and women for each other so they might be “no longer two but one” (Mt 19:6). In this way **they are to live in love, be fruitful, and this become and sign of God himself, who is nothing but overflowing love.**”

Lesson:

1. Opening-

- a. Remind students of the goal of yesterday's lesson: God has a plan for us and following this plan will make us happy in this life and ultimately in Heaven.
- b.** Since our goal is happiness with God in heaven, can we name some of the Saints that we know are already in heaven? (Write a list on the board as students name Saints). What are some of the gifts and talents that you respect in these people? (Again, list them on the board.) After a considerable list has been made, ask the students to take a few moments to consider which gifts and talents they see in themselves. Have them complete the [Gift Worksheet](#).
- c. God has given each of us unique gifts and talents so that we can grow in holiness and lead others to Heaven. At our baptism God planted in our hearts a ‘call’ or an ‘invitation’ to a special way of following Him. This call is our ‘**vocation**.’ There are three specific vocations in the Church: marriage, priesthood and consecrated life. (write them on the board) Finding and following our vocation helps us fulfill God's plan for our lives (which leads to our greatest happiness...tie in yesterday's lesson)

2. Instruction:

- a. The next few days we are going to learn more about each of these vocations and about how to **discern** (listen for) your vocation. For the rest of this lesson we are going to talk about the vocation to marriage.
- b. Scripture- Together read [Jeremiah 1:5](#) What does a prophet do? (*They are messengers from God.*) Is it easy to be a prophet? Do we still have prophets? (*We are all called to be prophets.*) Since we are called to be prophets, let's see if by

the end of this lesson you can figure out how married couples and families are called to be prophets. What part of God's message do they bring to the world?

- c. God invites many people to be married and to have holy families. Through marriage, God wants to show the world His powerful love.
 - d. The **sacrament of matrimony** gives husbands and wives the grace to love each other as Christ has loved his Church (us). How did Jesus show His love for us? (*He served us and died for us.*) How can married couples love each other in the same way as Jesus did? (*loving and helping each other, being faithful to each other for their whole life, 'dying' for one another by doing what is best for the other person, etc.*) Even when it is difficult, married couples have His grace to help them love each other.
 - e. The grace of this sacrament **perfects** the human love of the spouses and helps them grow in holiness. (*analogy for what we mean by the verb perfect: Receiving the sacramental grace of marriage is like receiving superpowers. 'Seeing' is a power most people have, but Superman can see through things. Love is something we can all do, but sacramentally married couples can love in an even more powerful way. It is not automatic, they have to choose to use this power just like Superman had to choose to use his powers.*)
 - f. Husband and wives serve God by loving each other and by welcoming the children He wishes to send them. God has designed families to be a special place where children are raised with love and taught how to live lives of love. Each family is called to be a "school of love" where we learn how to be kind, to forgive, to help, etc. Take a moment to think of some of the ways your family has taught you to love (*have them brainstorm outloud*)
 - g. So, back to our question earlier: How do married couples and families live out their call to be prophets? (*Through their love for each other, they reveal to the world the powerful way God loves us all.*)
3. Vocabulary: vocation, discern, sacrament of matrimony
 4. Homework: Pray the closing prayer tonight with your family. Begin practicing the [puppet show](#) to share with a younger class (or to perform in class) later in the week.
 5. Closing [Prayer](#):

Lord, bless our family,
all of us together, those far away, all who are gone back to you.
May we know joy. May we bear our sorrows in patience.
Let love guide our understanding of each other.
Let us be grateful to each other.

We have all made each other what we are.
O Family of Jesus, watch over our family.
Amen