

Called to Spiritual Fatherhood

God's Plan for Priests

Grades 3-5: Lesson 3

Goal: Students will describe how a man becomes a priest through Holy Orders. They will describe the services they provide to God's people, the Church.

Scripture: Mark 1:16-20

“Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

Youth Catechism: (#249) The man who is ordained receives a gift of the Holy Spirit that gives him a sacred authority that is conferred upon him by Christ through the bishop...

Through Holy Orders a priest receives as a gift a definite power and a mission for his brothers and sisters in faith.

Lesson:

1. Vocabulary:

- a. **Holy Orders:** the sacrament through which the mission Jesus gave to his apostles continues to be accomplished in the Church until the end of time. It includes three degrees: bishops, priests, deacons
- b. **Ordination:** a special Mass where a man becomes a bishop, priest or deacon
- c. **“Sacred powers” / responsibilities of:**
 - a. Bishops: administers all the Sacraments (including Priestly Ordination and Confirmation)
 - b. Priests: administers the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Baptism, preside over funerals and weddings.
 - c. Deacons: lead Communion services, administer Baptism, lead funerals and weddings unless they are in the context of Mass (then a priest is needed)
- d. **Consecration:** setting aside someone as something special with a special mission or calling
- e. **Sacrament:** a visible sign of an invisible reality that imparts grace.
- f. **Grace:** a share in God's life

2. Introduction:

- a. Review concepts from Days 1 and 2. We are all called to holiness and there are different paths (vocations) which will lead us to holiness. Yesterday we discussed God's call for married people and families. Today we will learn about the gift of the priesthood.
- b. Discussion: *Does anyone know a priest? What does a priest do? Let's take a closer look.*

- c. Read the call of the first disciple in Mark 1:16-20
Discussion: *What kind of person was Jesus that drew these men to follow Him “immediately?” They must have heard about Him and spoken to Him before He invited them to follow Him. If they had not known Him before, do you think they would have followed Him? Would you? What do we need to do to know Jesus?*

3. Instruction

- a. Jesus invited certain men to be His close companions in doing the work of God the Father. At the Last Supper when Jesus gave us the Eucharist, He ordained these twelve followers as the first priests and gave them sacred powers to change bread and wine into Jesus’ Body and Blood and to forgive sins.
- b. *There are special vocabulary words we need to learn first and understand.* (Have the vocabulary on the board to refer to during the lesson.)
- c. Discussion: *Would you follow a stranger? No. So in order to follow someone, we need to know the person well, to trust them. How do we get to know someone well? Once we come to know a person well, if we like/love them, we want to be like them. Jesus calls some men to be priests and to share very closely in His work.*
- i. **Grades 4th and 5th:** watch [Fishers of Men](#) (18 mins.) *Did those men know Jesus well? Could we say that the priests were imitating Jesus? What were some of the activities that you saw the priests do in the video? Why do we need priests?*
- ii. **3rd Grade:** watch [Jesus and the Fishermen](#) (11 mins.) and/or [Jesus Calls the Fishermen](#) (4 mins.) Use the discussion questions (above). *How can you become another Christ to those around you at this time?*
- d. *What are the steps for a man becoming a priest? (seminarian, temporary deacon, ordained priest.) A priest can become: a Monsignor*, a Bishop, an Archbishop, a Cardinal*, and a Pope*. Note that the * indicates that these are not a different degree of Holy Orders – they are titles which indicate an honor given (Monsignor) or a specific role in the Church (Cardinal, Pope). An Archbishop is not MORE ordained than a Bishop, it is simply a title meaning he is the Bishop of an Archdiocese.*
- e. To have an idea what a deacon, priest, or bishop do, we will make a notebook to describe what men in Holy Orders do in the Catholic Church. Use the template and instructions found here [Holy Orders Notebook activity](#)

5. **Evaluation:** Using the notebook, review the steps for becoming a priest, bishop and a Pope. Explain the duties / “Sacred Powers” of a priest and bishop. Check for understanding that the Pope is a bishop. His diocese is Rome.
6. **Homework/ A Step Beyond:** Take a few minutes tonight to share your Holy Orders Notebook with your dad, mom, uncle, aunt, or someone else close to you. Share what you learned. Interview the person you share with asking the person about a favorite memory of a deacon, priest, or bishop they met or knew. Write it down to share it with the class.

7. Close with prayer.

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.
Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.
Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the
footsteps of Jesus.
Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.

Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.
Amen.

(USCCB Prayer for the Year of Priests)