

5th Grade: God's Call

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

- To be inspired to pray more, and to begin to sense God's voice through peace, joy, and courage.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- God calls every person to an intimate relationship with him. This is our first and foremost vocation.
- Prayer helps us to know God.
- God speaks through peace, joy, and courage.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

- Complete the core components of the lesson. Select and complete other components given the time you have and the needs of your students.

INTRODUCTION

2 min

Summarize today's theme.

Through these units we hope to become familiar with the vocations to which God calls people so that you will be able to follow his call always. Right now, you are in the single state of life, but someday God may call you to a particular vocation—married life, priesthood, or religious life. Today's focus is on living our first and most important vocation: to know God and spend time with him. Prayer helps us know and draw close to God.

OPENING PRAYER

2 min

1. Slowly read aloud Isaiah 43:1-7, pausing between phrases for silent reflection.

"Now, says the LORD, who created you, and formed you: Do not be afraid, for I have saved you; I have called you by name: you are mine.

GOD'S CALL

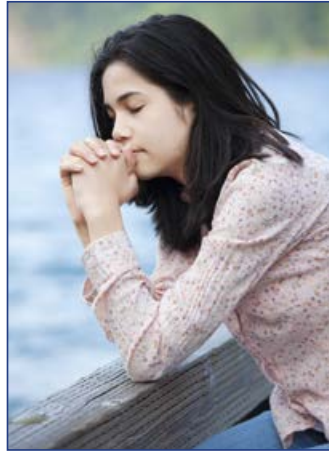


"Now, says the LORD, who created you, and formed you: Do not be afraid, for I have saved you; I have called you by name: you are mine.

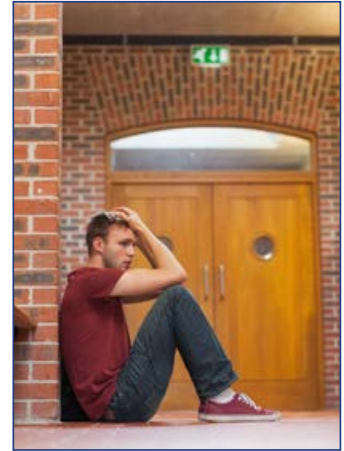
I will be with you; For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One, your savior. You are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you,

My sons and daughters- All who are called by my name- I created you for my glory. I formed you, and made you."
- ISAIAH 43:1-7

TEACH - Who is speaking?



God's voice gives you courage and willingness to do what is good. God speaks through peace, joy, and courage.



Thoughts that are discouraging and lead to depression, anxiety, and fear are not from God. Neither do thoughts of selfishness and quick pleasure come from God.



The devil tempts us with bad thoughts about ourselves.

VOCATION LESSONS | 5th Grade: God's Call



I will be with you; For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One, your savior.

You are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you,

My sons and daughters- All who are called by my name- I created you for my glory. I formed you, and made you."

- ISAIAH 43:1-7

2. Pray this or another a simple prayer from the heart:

Thank you, Lord, for considering us precious. Thank you for seeing who we really are. Help us to find time to pray peacefully and to listen to you.



TEACH

5 min

Discuss and teach the main concepts of how we hear God's voice in prayer.

God calls every person to an intimate relationship with him. Prayer helps us to know God and draw close to him. Have you ever wondered how we hear God's voice in prayer? There are many wonderful explanations, but let's focus on Saint Ignatius' advice. He said that if you are in a state of grace, God's voice gives you courage and willingness to do what is good. His voice leads to conversion. His is a voice of peace. God speaks through peace, joy, and courage.

Ask: When do you hear God's voice in prayer?

On the other hand, thoughts that are discouraging and lead to depression, anxiety, and fear are not from God. Neither do thoughts of selfishness and quick pleasure come from God.

Ask: Who are negative thoughts from?

Pause to answer any questions students may have.

In many ways, you can know God's voice by its effect on you. It is rare to hear specific words from God (although it definitely happens), but more often he will speak to you with thoughts of encouragement, confidence, and joy. When you pray often, you will become more aware of God's voice, and his voice will strengthen you.

Ask: Have you ever experienced this when you pray?

Do not worry if you don't notice these things yet. You cannot feel that you are growing right now, but you are. In the same way, God is pleased with your prayer, and he is doing good things in you though you may not realize it!

GOD'S CALL

*"Now, says the LORD,
who created you, and formed you:
'Do not be afraid,
for I have saved you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.*

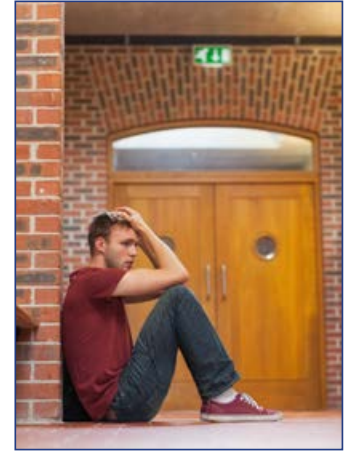
*I will be with you;
For I, the LORD, am your God,
the Holy One, your savior.
You are precious in my eyes
and honored, and I love you,*

*My sons and daughters-
All who are called by my name-
I created you for my glory.
I formed you, and made you."
- ISAIAH 43:1-7*

TEACH - Who is speaking?



God's voice gives you courage and willingness to do what is good. God speaks through peace, joy, and courage.



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ACTIVITY

10 min

Let's do an activity to experience how we hear God's voice in prayer.

1. Select one student to pretend to be a person praying about his or her day, one to be the voice of God, and one to be the voice of the Enemy. Do not let the rest of the class know which person will be speaking for the voice of God or the voice of the Enemy.
2. Describe a scenario to the person who is "praying," and have him or her act out telling God about it in prayer. Then, the one speaking the voice of God says something that will lead to peace, courage, self-sacrifice, and joy. The one speaking the voice of the Enemy then says something to the one praying that will lead to quick pleasure, depression, fear, or self-gratification.
Possible scenarios: You scored a goal in soccer, got made fun of by kids at lunch, have lots of homework, are not getting along well with a sibling, had a birthday and received some great presents, or went over to your grandparents' house for dinner.
3. Students vote to decide which actor was speaking the words of God to the one praying.
4. Switch actors every so often.

READING

10 min

1. Read aloud the quotes on prayer together, calling on different students to read each quote.
2. Use these quotes to spark a discussion on prayer.
3. Ask questions, such as, "What does this quote mean or refer to? Do you like it? What does it make you think of?"



GOD'S CALL

ACTIVITY

ROLE-PLAYING: WHO IS SPEAKING?

Your teacher will pick a few students to play three roles:

1. A student praying
2. God speaking
3. The Enemy speaking

The students will role-play

a scene, with God and the Enemy offering advice to the student. Based on what they say, guess who is God, and who is the Enemy.



READING

QUOTES ABOUT PRAYER

"Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness."
- St. John Chrysostom

"My little children, your hearts are small, but prayer stretches them and makes them capable of loving God. Through prayer we receive a foretaste of heaven and something of paradise comes down upon us. Prayer never leaves us without sweetness. It is honey that flows into the souls and makes all things sweet. When we pray properly, sorrows disappear like snow before the sun."
- Saint John Vianney

"How often I failed in my duty to God because I was not leaning on the strong pillar of prayer." - St. Teresa of Avila

"My daughter...why do you not tell me about everything that concerns you, even the smallest details? Tell Me about everything, and know that this will give Me great joy." I answered, "But You know about everything, Lord." And Jesus replied to me, "Yes I do know; but you should not excuse yourself with the fact that I know, but with childlike simplicity talk to Me about everything, for my ears and heart are inclined towards you, and your words are dear to Me." -St. Faustina, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*

"Read some chapter of a devout book...It is very easy and most necessary, for just as you speak to God when at prayer, God speaks to you when you read."
- St. Vincent de Paul

"In order to succeed in it (prayer), it should be done when we first awaken, when our whole being is calm and recollected. We need to make our meditation before anything else."
- Saint Peter Julian Eymard

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."
- Mark 14:38

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
- Philippians 4:6-7

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God."
- Luke 6:12

EXPLORATION

PRAYER PLACARDS

1. Choose one of the quotes about prayer that stands out to you.
2. Write it neatly on paper.
3. Decorate the quote.



A high school student prays in his school chapel



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EXPLORATION

15 min

1. Direct each student to select one of the quotes just read that stands out to him or her.
2. Provide students with cardstock or other paper, and direct them to write their chosen quotes neatly on the paper.
3. Students then decorate their quote placards.
4. Post the quotes around the classroom to serve as encouragement to pray.

VISUAL ART

5 min

1. Display “Prayer at Sainte Anne d’Auray” by William-Adolphe Bouguereau.
2. Direct students to analyze the image in light of today’s theme.
3. Use the questions to spark class discussion, or assign students to write answers to the questions.

REINFORCE

5 min

1. Display the main concepts on the board.
2. Have the students verbally repeat them, write them down, or ask questions about them.
3. Quiz the students a bit to see if they grasp the concepts. If it is helpful, refer to the Vocation Glossary found at www.vocation-lessons.com/glossary.

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

5 min

1. Introduce the meditation.
During this meditation you will listen to a passage from Isaiah. Imagine that God says these words to you right now.
2. Slowly read Isaiah 43:1-7. Pause in between phrases for silent reflection.
“Now, says the LORD, who created you, and formed you: ‘Do not be afraid, for I have saved you; I have called you by name: you are mine. I will be with you; For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One, your savior. You are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you, My sons and daughters- All who are called by my name I created you for my glory. I formed you, and made you.’” - Isaiah 43:1-7
3. Conclude the meditation.
What phrase stands out to you? Think about that phrase, and talk with God in the silence of your hearts for a few moments.



GOD’S CALL

VISUAL ART

Study this image in light of today’s theme of prayer.



“Prayer at Sainte Anne d’Auray”
by William-Adolphe Bouguereau

1. What is the difference in personality between these two girls?
2. What clues in the painting tell you this?
3. Light shining on a person is often a symbol of goodness and holiness. Notice how the light shines on both girls. What does the artist think about the goodness of these two girls?
4. Notice that there are not on any kneelers. How does it feel to kneel on a stone floor for 15 minutes (about how long it takes to pray a rosary)?
5. Where are the girls praying?
6. Where do you like to pray?
7. What do you pray for?

PRAY TOGETHER

Actiones Nostra

Father, may everything we do
begin with your inspiration

and continue
with your saving help.

Let our work always find
its origin in you

and through you reach
completion.

We ask this
through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

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CLOSING PRAYER

2 min

Direct the students to look over the prayer.
Learning to direct all of your actions toward God is a great path toward friendship with God. Are there any phrases in this prayer that are confusing?

Lead the students in praying the vocation prayer, *Actiones Nostra*.