

Kindergarten: GOD'S CALL

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVE: To begin listening to ways that God calls us.

MAIN CONCEPTS:

- Vocation means “God calls” us.
- God calls each person because he loves us.
- God calls us in many different and special ways.

PLANNING DIRECTIONS:

Choose the components you wish to use given the time you have and needs of your children.

INTRODUCTION

2 min

Summarize today's theme.

Today is our first day studying “vocation.” This word means “God calls.” That doesn't mean God is going to make your telephone ring! But it does mean he is trying to speak with you and ask you to be near to Him. It is nothing magic; hearing God can be as simple as seeing a friend smile or getting a hug from your Mom. He calls us close to Him in many ways. He loves you like a good Father. The first and most important vocation to which God calls each of us is to be with him. That is what we will be thinking about today.

SIMPLE PRAYER

1 min

Let's draw near to God during today's lesson. Read aloud Isaiah 43:1.

“The Lord who created you says, ‘Do not fear, for I have saved you. I have called you by name, and you are mine.’”
- ISAIAH 43:1

POSSIBLE PRAYER:

Thank you, God, for calling us. Please help us to hear your voice in special ways.

GOD'S CALL

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READING: The Father's Voice



1 *The children lived with their mother and father in a beautiful home.*

"Home in the Woods" - Thomas Cole, 1847



2 *The woods were fun at first, but soon the children were lost.*

"Pine Forest in Vyatka Province" - Ivan Shishkin, 1878

VOCATION LESSONS | Kindergarten: God's Call

MAIN CONCEPTS

5 min

TEACH:

- Vocation means “God calls.”
- God calls each of us to be close to Him because He loves us all.
- He calls us to Himself in many different ways.

REINFORCE:

Ask the children simple questions that they can answer aloud in unison.

- What does vocation mean? – God calls!
- Who does God call? – Each person!
- How does God call? – Many ways!



READING

15 min

Read aloud “The Father’s Voice” to the students. Then use the following reflection questions to discuss the story with the students.

BE CURIOUS

- What do you imagine the children’s home looked like?
- Why were the children so happy at home?
- How did the children end up lost and separated from their father?
- Do you ever feel far away from God?
- What comforted the children when they were lost?
- Have you ever been comforted because you knew God, your heavenly Father, cared for you?
- When did the children hear their father’s voice?
- How do you hear God calling you?

READ ALOUD:

The Father’s Voice

Once upon a time there were two little children, a boy and a girl, who had a very special home. Their home was full of sunshine and flowers. Their mother and father always gave them good things to eat, and happiness filled the home. To the boy and girl, however, the best thing about their home was their Father. He was the happiest father you ever met, and his eyes would twinkle like real stars when he looked at his children. He loved to carry his little daughter on his shoulders and let her pick cherries from the trees. He loved to toss his little boy way high up in the air and catch him. The two children loved their home and their Father.

Refer to image #1:

The children lived with their mother and father in a beautiful home.
“Home in the Woods,” Thomas Cole, 1847

One day the little boy and little girl decided to explore the big forest near their home. At first, they had a

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VOCATION LESSONS | Kindergarten: God’s Call

wonderful adventure, climbing trees, catching bugs, and chasing sunbeams. After a while, however, they became tired. As the children sat down to rest, the little boy noticed the sun setting. The little girl noticed the deepening shadows of evening. Suddenly, they realized they had been gone from home a LONG time. In fact, they had wandered so long and so far in the woods that they were lost.

“Oh no!” cried the girl. “We’re lost! We will never get home! Do you think our Father will forget us?” And she burst into tears.

“No,” said the boy. “Our Father will never forget us, and he will surely come find us.”

REFER TO IMAGE #2:

The woods were fun at first, but soon the children were lost.
“Pine Forest in Vyatka Province,” Ivan Shishkin, 1878

Comforted by thought of their Father, the two children hugged each other and sat down to wait. After a while, they began to be hungry. The girl pulled out a piece of bread she had kept

in her backpack for their adventure. “Here, we can share this for dinner,” she said.

Soon, the stars began to twinkle in the darkening sky. “Do you think our Father will come?” asked the girl again.

“I am sure he will,” reassured her brother. “We must keep waiting. He will find us.”

Comforted again by the thought that their Father would find them, the two children became peaceful. They rested together at the foot of a large oak tree and soon fell fast asleep.

Refer to image #3:

The children fell asleep under a tree. “Children in the Wood,” Charles Lucy, 1859

As the children slept, both dreamed they heard a voice, so very kind and gentle, calling their names.

The next day dawned bright and clear. As the sun started to rise, the children woke surprisingly refreshed from their night under the tree.

“I had the most wonderful dream!” exclaimed the girl. “The kindest voice in the world was calling my name!”

“Me too!” cried the boy. “I heard that same kind voice! I almost think I can hear it still calling me.”


The two stood very still and listened hard. Faintly at first, but then stronger and louder, a voice was calling—a voice calling each of their names—a voice so kind and gentle they wanted to cry—the voice of their Father!!!

“My children!” the Father called, for it was him! He was running through the trees towards them.

Refer to image #4:

The father ran to find his children. “Pine Forest,” Ivan Shishkin, 1878

“Father!” cried the children. They jumped forward as they recognized their Father’s voice, and they began to run to him. The next minute they were all in each other’s arms, Father hug-




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READING: The Father’s Voice


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VOCATION LESSONS | Kindergarten: God’s Call ➤ 2

ging the children, and the children hugging their Father. Everyone was laughing and crying all at the same time.

“Oh, we knew you’d come for us, Father,” said the boy.

The Father held his son and daughter close to him, and he kissed them on their foreheads. “My dear children,” he said. “How I missed you! The moment I knew you were lost I came looking for you, longing to find you. And now my heart is joyful to have you with me again. Come with me to our home. Your mother awaits our return anxiously. Joy will reign in our home always, for our children have been found!”

And so the Father carried the boy and girl in his strong arms and brought them safely to their home again. From that day forward, the children knew that if ever they were lost again, their Father would come for them and call them, and he would lead them safely down the right path to their home.

ACTIVITY

10 min

“WHO CALLS MY NAME?”

Hand out folded pieces of paper to all but one student. All papers have red dots except one, which has a green dot. The person with the green dot will be the one to call the name of the person without a paper. The student without a paper will cover his eyes, listen for his name being called, and try to identify who called him.

Play a few rounds of this game so that everyone has a turn being the one called.

EXPLORATION

15 min

YOU AND GOD

Do one of the following activities:

- Have each student make a clay model of himself together with God.
- Have each student draw a picture of God calling him.

VISUAL ART

5 min

Display and discuss “*Madonna and Child*” by Bartolome Esteban Murillo.

- God wants to be close to you like Mary is to baby Jesus.
- What clues in this picture tell you that Mary and Jesus like to be together?
- How are Jesus and Mary feeling?
- Where is Marly looking? Why?

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

5 min

God has made you so that you can be close and happy with him forever. Your home is heaven. Listen to the Bible reading about the Garden of Eden that God made for Adam and Eve. Think about God making heaven ready for you. In the quiet moments you can talk to Jesus about what you are thinking and feeling.

Read each phrase slowly with a few seconds of silence in between each for thought.



GOD'S CALL



PRAYER

“The Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life, and the man became a living being. God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the person he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were beautiful to look at and fruit that was good to eat.” - GENESIS 2:7-9

PRAY TOGETHER

Hail Mary full of Grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou
among women
and blessed is the fruit of
thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour
of our death.

AMEN.

VOCATION LESSONS | Kindergarten: God's Call 3

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PRAY TOGETHER

2 min

HAIL MARY

We can look at the way Mary listened to God. He spoke to her a lot and she always listened with her heart. Whenever we pray the Hail Mary, we can grow close to God, like she is.

(If students do not yet know this prayer, have them repeat it after you line by line.)