

## Confirmation Lesson on Vocation

### I – Intro and Warm-Up

(Materials needed: chart paper and markers)

- Leader records everyone's name down the chart paper and asks: **“when you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up? [Wait for responses ... ]. Has this idea changed from then to now? What would you like to be or do when you're older, now? [Record their responses on the chart paper, next to their names].**

### II – Key Words and Definitions

(Materials needed: chart paper and markers)

- Leader writes the word “career” on chart paper and below it, writes the word “vocation.” Ask the class to try and define the 2 words. What do these words mean?
- **Career** – something of our choosing, a job we are specifically trained for, a goal we try to reach.
- **Vocation** – a gift from God, listening for God's voice and trying to figure out what God is calling us to do.  
Vocation doesn't come from our own willfulness; it comes from listening to and accepting our true self with our limits as well as our potential. Vocation is a career which is discerned and expressed through the lens of our baptisms and within our identity as people of God. We're all called by God, through the grace of our baptisms, to serve God and serve others.
- As a class, go through the list of careers the class listed in the first exercise. Work through the list and ask: **How can these careers / vocations serve God and serve others?** Discuss as a group, while the leader records responses on the chart paper, next to the careers / vocations that are listed.

(Materials needed: Bibles, catechisms, worksheet and pens/pencils)

- Divide class into groupings of 2-3. Assign each group a pairing of Bible verses (draw out of a hat).

- Give each group a worksheet and have them read their assigned Bible verse and work through the worksheet provided. Discuss as a group.
- Have each class member open their Small Catechisms to Martin Luther's explanation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed. Talk about what Martin Luther is saying in this instance, that vocation is not a goal to be achieved, but rather, a gift to be received. God, through the Holy Spirit calls us, enlightens us and gives us gifts. This is most certainly true!

#### IV – Hands On!

(Materials needed: playdough – recipe included, blindfolds – cloth or made out of narrow strips of a cut-up garbage bag)

- The leader hands each class member a lump of playdough (which has been made ahead of time). Have them play with it and squish it around as you explain the activity.
- Leader asks the class to individually think of one thing they are good at. Something they would consider to be a gift. The Leader explains to the class that they would like each class member to design a sculpture (using the playdough) of this particular gift. However, there's a catch! They must do it with their eyes closed, or by wearing a blindfold. Give the class enough time to complete the activity.
- After the sculpting has been completed, have each class member explain what their sculpture is and how they came to discover it was a gift they possessed.
- After all have shared, ask the class what was easy about this activity and what was difficult. The obvious answer to the difficult question is that it was hard to sculpt something with their eyes closed.
- Spend a couple of minutes talking about how our senses. Our ability to touch and to see are also gifts to us from God.
- Another difficulty people may experience in this exercise is coming up with a gift or skill they feel they possess.
- The leader may wish to talk about the difficulty we sometimes have in seeing gifts and skills in ourselves. Figuring out what it is that God is calling us to do means recognizing the gifts we already have and how God is calling us to use these gifts to serve God and to serve others. This can be hard work!
- Return to the vocations list from earlier. The leader may ask: **what gifts and skills do you think are needed for these vocations?** Leader lists gifts and skills next to the vocations.

#### V – God's Call to Ministry

(Materials needed: Bibles, Ephesians worksheet, chart paper, markers)

- There are lots of different ways to serve God. Leader hands out the Bible worksheet on which is printed Ephesians 4:11 – 16. Have class members work independently and circle the words in these Bible verses that have meaning for them.
- Share as a group some of the words each class member circled and why.
- As the Leader, note with the group that this passage from Ephesians specifically lists ‘pastor’ as a vocation. Ask: **Has anyone ever thought of being a pastor?** As a group, brainstorm what the class believes a pastor does, and what gifts are needed to be a pastor. Ask: **Do any of you think you may have some of these gifts / skills? Do any of you think each other may have some of these gifts / skills?**
- Spend some time talking about what it takes to be a pastor ... the education needed, the academic process, as well as the church process. Stress that in our Lutheran Church, one’s call to be a pastor is a gift of God and comes through having many conversations with God, but that this call is also one which is affirmed by the wider church community. [For example, one of the purposes of C-Com (Eastern Synod) is to help students identify and articulate their sense of call to ministry].

#### **VI – Lets Have Some Fun!**

(Materials needed: questions to ‘Who Wants to be a Minister?’ game, along with multiple choice answers which are written out on newsprint; a dice).

- This game is loosely modeled on the game show, “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” Divide group into 2 teams. Teams will work together to answer the questions. Teams take turns rolling the dice to have their turn at answering the questions. A number 2 or a number 6 must be rolled in order to answer the questions. “Life-lines” are available to each team. They may use them whenever they want, but once the “life-lines” run-out there are no more. If one team answers a question incorrectly, the other team has a chance to steal a point by answering the question correctly. Points are awarded for each question answered correctly. The team with the highest score at the end of the game (when time or the questions run out), wins.

#### **VII – Closing – Let’s Give Thanks to God.**

- Share the following ritual and have class turn to the person next to them and say: **“you, name, are God’s child, called to be a blessing to the world.”** while making the sign of the cross on each other’s foreheads.
- Share the following prayer: **Gracious and loving God, thank you for making us all unique, with our individual interests and abilities. Help us to hear your call clearly that we might use all you have given us to serve you and others according to your will for us. Grant us wisdom and patience as we wrestle with decisions about the direction our lives will take. Be our guide and our guest this day and all days. This we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.**