

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

## CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • January 14, 2024

### Catechist Preparation

#### Scripture

**FIRST READING**—1 SAMUEL 3:3B-10, 19

Eli realizes that Samuel is being called by the Lord God to be his special servant, his prophet. He instructs Samuel to listen for God's message.

**SECOND READING**—1 CORINTHIANS 6:13C-15A, 17-20

Saint Paul describes our bodies as "temples of the Holy Spirit." We are to glorify God in our own bodies.

**GOSPEL**—JOHN 1:35-42

Two disciples of John the Baptist encounter Jesus. They are so intrigued that they introduce Simon to Jesus, who renames him Peter.

#### Church Teaching: Vocation

The Latin *vocatus*, from which we derive our English word "vocation," literally means "a calling" or "a summoning." All human beings are created by God for the purpose of knowing and loving the Creator. We believe that we are called by God ultimately to share in the divine life. Discerning our gifts and living up to God's call is an ongoing spiritual process. Whether married, single, a priest, or a member of a religious order, all believers all are called to holiness as exemplified in the life of Jesus.

### Additional Background

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** 898, 914, 787, 1691

**United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:** Chapter II (The Four Marks of the Church), especially the section entitled "Make Disciples," pages 135–137

**Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II:** page 88

### Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, an open Bible or Lectionary, a candle, and—if available—pictures of priests, deacons, sisters, married couples, and single people.

#### Discover

1. Invite the children to think about the liturgy just celebrated.
2. Ask volunteers to respond to the following questions:  
*What did you notice about the church today? Was anything different?*
3. Highlight the following points, using a liturgical year calendar to illustrate:
  - We are in a new season of the Church's liturgical year called Ordinary Time.
  - "Ordinary" means numbered. Our Sundays will be numbered from now until Lent begins. Today is the second Sunday in Ordinary Time, and this year Lent will begin after the sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

#### Deepen

1. Proclaim the First Reading, 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19.
2. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words or dramatize the story.
3. Ask the children:  
*Have you ever had a similar experience? If so, what happened?*  
*How does God speak to you?*  
*Is there anything you could do to be a better listener to God?*

#### Pray

Invite the children to close their eyes. Give them some quiet moments to listen to God and to speak to God what is in their hearts.

## Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

### Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup, invite one or more persons to speak to the group today (refer to the Challenge section of today's session for specific directions).

### Sunday Word

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

John 1:35-42

### Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

### Invite

1. Invite the children to tell about their families. Ask:

*How many people are in your family?*

*How young is the youngest member and how old is the oldest member?*

*What do the youngest and oldest members of your family do?*

### Teach

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 1:35-42.

2. Invite volunteers to recall the story by responding to the following questions.

*What are the names of those in the story?*

*What did John the Baptist do in this story?*

*What did Andrew and Simon do?*

*Why did Andrew and Simon call Jesus "Rabbi"?*

*What happened to Simon at the end of the story?*

*Why?*

3. Read and discuss Key Teachings from the participant handout.

4. Continue today's discussion by reminding the children that:

- God made us in his image and likeness. As children of God, our shared vocation is to know, love, and serve God.
- Another part of our shared vocation—just like Andrew in the Gospel—is to share the Good News of Salvation with others. What are ways we can do so?
- As we continue to grow in faith and to listen to God as Samuel did, we will come to know our individual vocations—married, priesthood, single life, or consecrated life as a member of a religious community. (Take time to explain these four vocations to the children.)

### Faith Words

Review with the children this week's Faith Words: *faith* and *vocation*. Refer to the participant handout for definitions.

### Challenge

Have one or more persons who live the vocations of married life, single life, the priesthood, or consecrated life as a member of a religious community come speak with the children about their vocations.

If it is not possible to have guests come and speak, have volunteers share the names of those they know who share the Good News of Jesus through their actions and words. (Who, for example, has shared the Good News with them?) As they offer their examples, help the children recognize that person's vocation. Be prepared to add your own examples that reflect a variety of vocations.

### Pray

Give the children quiet time to think about whom they talk to about Jesus. Then sing or listen to a recording of "Servant Song" or another song focusing on vocation.

In accord with the *Code of Canon Law*, I hereby grant the *Imprimatur* ("Permission to Publish")

regarding the publication of *Young Apprentices: A Resource for the RCIA*.

Most Reverend Joseph R. Binzer, Auxiliary Bishop, Vicar General • Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio • December 3, 2014.

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