

## Lesson 17: Who's calling? (Holy Orders and Vocational Discernment)

### Opening Reflection

(Please read this over with your child to begin to think about what they are going to be learning today)

The purpose of this lesson is to instill an understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Students will be offered an opportunity to learn a bit more about the process of discerning a vocation to the priesthood, religious life, married life, or single life (which includes a commitment to celibacy).

Oftentimes teens have a “knee jerk” reaction to considering whether God might be calling them to serve him in the Church. They simply cannot imagine a satisfying, fulfilling life without the benefits of marriage, and they do not stop to consider that all vocations have both a crown and a cross, both benefits and sacrifices. This lesson will encourage them to consider this.

### Opening Prayer

Today we will begin with a short, powerful prayer from St. Ignatius Loyola, who is renowned for his writing on discernment, which is figuring out what God wants you to do. I encourage you to write out this prayer and pray it every day. Let's pray.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dearest Jesus,  
Teach me to be generous,  
Teach me to love and serve you as you deserve,  
To give and not to count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the wounds,  
To toil and not to seek for rest,  
To labour and to look for no reward,  
Except that of knowing that  
I do your Holy Will.  
Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

### Challenge of the Week

Talk about the challenge from last week that is found on page 141. Talk about how the experience was or how they could keep the challenge up every week of their lives.

### Dive in Story

Read the story on page 156 together, and then talk about what you read.

#### Talking points:

- Do you feel a devotion to attending Mass weekly?
- Do you feel you have a fundamental calling in life from God?

## Who's calling? – with Fr. Mike Schmitz

### Video Segment 1: The Power of the Priesthood?

Play video the following video.

<https://youtu.be/5w4QTwpj3EE>

Talking points after the video:

1. Do you know any priests, deacons, or religious personally? What are some ways they have helped you or others you know?
2. How are priests different from other Catholics? In what ways are they the same?
3. What could you do for the world as a priest or religious sister that you could not do as a married person?

### Video Segment 2: Questions About the Priesthood

Play video the following video.

<https://youtu.be/vJIGdNOAUnU>

Talking points after the video:

1. How can you offer your support to our priests and religious?
2. How is a priest like a “spiritual father” and a religious sister like a “spiritual mother”?
3. What do you think your parents and friends would say if you told them you were considering becoming a priest or religious sister?

### Video Segment 3: Discerning God's Plan for Your Life

Play video the following video.

<https://youtu.be/vL7Jk2evsc>

Talking points after the video:

1. Have you ever asked God to reveal to you his plans for your life? What is one way to find out if God wants you to serve him in a particular way?
2. What are some things you can do to help discern your vocation to marriage, Holy Orders, or religious?

**\*\*ANSWER KEY FOR ALL SEGMENTS IS BELOW**

## To the Heart with Fr. Mike Schmitz

Read the story on page 158 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talk points:

- Dedicating your life completely to God, either as a priest or in the religious life, takes great courage. Because these vocations represent God and the Church in a special way, priests and religious have unique opportunities to bless the lives of others. Have you ever considered the priesthood or religious life or talked to someone who chose that state of life? If you had a friend who was thinking about it, how would you suggest they begin making this decision?
- Find It!
  - What Albanian nun started life with the name Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu and became known as “the saint of the gutters”?

## Hero of the Week

Read the Saint story on page 160 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talk points:

- This story of sainthood involves peace and faith in the gifts we can't see, how when we devote ourselves to these gifts, we are able to become better people that lead us to being saints.

## Challenge of the Week

- Ask the confirmation student to read the challenges on page 161 and choose one of the three to complete this week. Remind them to write about their experiences in the space provided.
- Read over the "Wrap-up" and the "What's the Word" sections of the workbook to review all the major words that have been mentioned throughout the lesson.

## Closing Prayer

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, you want to shower us with graces and bring our lives into focus. If we could see how perfectly our vocations match our deepest desires, we would be overcome with joy. Thank you for giving each of us the talents and abilities that will best serve your heavenly kingdom and lead to our greatest joy. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LINK FOR KNOWLEDGE CHECK: <https://forms.gle/5bRiFqxqPNmiDNbez5>

### Answer Key:

Segment 1:

1. Apostles
2. B. in persona Christi

Segment 2:

1. C. bride
2. celibacy

Segment 3:

1. D. Grace
2. D. I'm supposed to do
3. C. Pray

Find it! Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, also known as Mother Teresa