

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. At his baptism Jesus is named the Beloved Son of God. With this celebration we recommit ourselves to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Initiated through our baptism we too are commissioned to proclaim Good News with our lives.

The observance of *National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW)* began in 1976 when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year as the beginning of *NVAW*. In 1997 this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

NCCV promotes all Catholic Church vocations. This NVAW kit is designed to assist preachers, teachers, catechists, and other ministers. By fostering a culture of vocations, the Church is strengthened in its universal call to holiness. May this resource meet your particular needs and enhance your local celebration.



NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

January 10-16, 2010

PLANNING KIT

INTERMEDIATE (4-6)

Scripture for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

CYCLE C

- Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
- Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
- Acts 10:34-38
- Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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INTERMEDIATE LESSON PLANS

Baptized in the Spirit

LESSON ONE *Called to Serve*

Objective: To help students understand God's call to serve.

Process: Invite students to reflect on their own life. "Recall a time when you felt special. What was the occasion? How did you know that you were special?" Invite a few students to share. Relate this to the scene of Jesus' baptism. Read: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22. "If you were Jesus how might you feel? What might you do after this happened?" Talk about how Jesus began his "public ministry (service)" after his baptism by going out to teach, preach, and heal. By baptism with the Holy Spirit we too are called to serve others. Ask: "In what ways do you serve others now?" Invite responses. Discuss how students see priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, married couples, and single people responding to God's call to serve others. Invite your parish priest to share his story with the class.

Distribute Activity 1. Review directions and provide time for the activity and sharing.

LESSON TWO *How can I serve?*

Objective: To learn about God's call and recognize qualities needed to serve.

Process: Review ideas from *Lesson One* and ask a few students to share his/her inspirational motto. Discuss qualities needed to be a good servant. Talk about how people come to know their gifts for service. How do we know that God is calling us? Distribute Activity 2. Invite a student to read aloud 1 Samuel 3:1-10. Ask students to answer the questions about Samuel. After a short time invite students to share their answers. Choose another student to read aloud Luke 1:26-38 and answer the questions about Mary. After a short time invite students to share their answers. Choose a saint (e.g. the patron saint of your parish) and tell his or her story. Answer questions about the saint. Share answers. Students complete #4 about him/her. Invite students to offer responses to #4. End with prayer.

ACTIVITY 1

Answering God's Call

Called by Name

Each person is special and called by God. The prophet Isaiah tells us how special we are to God. God says to us: *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Fear not, for I am with you."* (Isaiah 43:1, 5)

Write your name and come up with a phrase that describes you for each letter.

Example: JOHN: Your name:

- J** - Joyful person
- O** - Open to God's call
- H** - Honest Helper
- N** - Noble friend

Inspiration for Service

Many people find that they need inspiration to stay faithful when they get discouraged. Inspiration can come from different sources. A *motto* (a saying that is a principle of behavior; Example: Girl/Boy Scouts *"Be prepared"*) can be a source of inspiration that helps encourage you especially when you may want to give up. Choose a personal motto for yourself. You can create your own motto or take a saying from scripture or another source. Write it on a large index card. Decorate it. Use it as a bookmark, put it on the refrigerator or place on your dresser. Keep it where you will see it and say it often.

Examples: *Fear not for I am with you. Isaiah 43:5*
 Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. Matthew 7:12
 Trust in the Lord and do good. Psalm 37
 Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37
 Be of good courage. Psalm 27
 Hold fast to dreams. Langston Hughes
 I have called you by name, you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

ACTIVITY 2
Stories of Service

1. Listen to the story of the call of Samuel. (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

Who helped Samuel recognize God's call? _____

What was Samuel's response to God? _____

What qualities did Samuel have that helped him serve God? _____

2. Listen to the story about Mary's call.

Who was God's messenger? _____

What was Mary's call to service? _____

What qualities did Mary have? _____

3. Listen to the call of a saint. Name of saint _____

How did the saint know that God was calling? _____

What was his/her call to service? _____

What qualities did s/he have? _____

4. Listen to your heart and recall your story.

How is God speaking to you? _____

What do you feel God is calling you to be and do? _____

What qualities do you have to serve God and others? _____
