

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

JUNIOR HIGH (7-8)

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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JUNIOR HIGH LESSON PLANS

Baptized in the Spirit

LESSON ONE *Jesus shows us the way*

Objective: To help students understand how God calls people.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 1. Bibles and Sunday reading references.

Process: Begin by talking about the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Invite students to be centered and listen to the two readings from the feast: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 and Luke 3:15–16, 21–22. Discuss what they heard. How are the readings connected? Who is the ‘servant’ that Isaiah mentions? [Jesus] What is this servant called to do? In the gospel story how does Jesus know that he is blessed? [While Jesus was praying, he saw the Holy Spirit and heard the voice of God.] Distribute Bibles and Activity 1. Invite students to find Genesis 12:1–9. Read passage aloud and ask the questions from Activity 1. Assign a passage for each person from the list of Bible call stories. Students answer the questions after they have read the passage. After sufficient time have students gather in groups of 4 or 5 to share their stories. Conclude with time for silent reflection on the final question. Invite some students to share their prayer.

LESSON TWO *What is God calling you to be and do?*

Objective: To learn about God’s call to others in the Bible and to recognize how God is calling each person.

Preparation: Duplicate Activity 2. Assemble materials on saints and those who are moved by the Spirit to give witness to the Gospel.

Process: Review what they learned about God’s call in the Bible stories they read. Talk about how God has called people throughout the ages and that they are now among the “community of saints.” Name some of these people and tell what they did in response to God’s call. You may want to refer to some saint books; *Witness to the Gospel* bookmarks (available from NCCV) provide information about more recent people. God continues to call people to live dedicated lives as married and single people, as a priest, brother, sister, deacon. Invite students to reflect on people they know who are serving God in different ways. Ask students to focus on their own lives. How do they hear God’s call? Distribute Activity 2. Allow time to begin work and complete the article for homework. Share and post the articles. Invite your parish priest or other/s to join the class and share how he/she is invited to serve God. You may want to ask them the questions on Activity 2.

ACTIVITY 1

Called by God

Throughout the Bible are stories about God’s call to people to serve others. Here are some of the “call stories.”

Genesis 15:1–6
Isaiah 6:1–8
Matthew 4:18–22
Luke 1:26–38
John 20:11–18

Exodus 3–4
Jeremiah 1:1–10
Matthew 9:9–13
Luke 5:1–11
Acts 9:1–19

1Samuel 3:1–10
1Samuel 16:1–13
Mark 16:14–19
Luke 19:1–10

Individual Study

Read the passage you are given. Answer the following questions about God’s call.

- *Where is this story found in the Bible?* _____
- *Who did God call?* _____
- *How did God call?* _____
- *What was the person asked to do?* _____
- *If you were the person called, how would you feel?* _____
- *How would you respond?* _____
- *How did the person respond?* _____

Group Sharing

In small groups tell your Bible passage in your own words. Share your personal reactions to this call. When everyone has finished sharing talk about how these stories are alike and how they are different.

Personal Response

Write a prayer that expresses your feelings about God’s call.

ACTIVITY 2

What is God calling you to be and do?

God calls everyone. You may hear God's call through others, in a voice or feeling inside yourself, and in what you are doing. Your vocation unfolds gradually. Life is something like a treasure hunt. Pay attention to the clues!

Someone you should know!

Create a one-page article about yourself. You are the interviewer/reporter. Tell about yourself in the third person. Give the article a title and include a picture of yourself if possible.

Include answers to the following questions:

- *What is important to you?*
- *What are the talents and gifts that you have to share with others?*
- *How do you try to make a difference?*
- *What is your dream in life now?*
- *What have others said to you to help you see yourself with your talents, interests, and ways to serve others?*
- *Other?*