



National Office for Vocation

Called into God's wonderful light

CONFIRMATION

The Holy Spirit
came down upon the disciples
and set their hearts on fire
with love:

May he bless you,
keep you one in faith and love
And bring you to the joy of
God's kingdom

(Solemn blessing)

This module consists of an introductory session to the whole group, and activities in smaller groups. There is an opening and a closing prayer on the back page.

Aims:

1. To explode the myth that Vocation is simply another word for 'Priest' or 'Religious'
2. To get across that vocation is unique and personal
3. To get across the fact that everyone has one!

Introduction (5 - 10 mins)

Welcomes!

Vocation is simply a **Call** from God. A call to life, through love. By its very nature we are drawn to respond this call. And we can react in so many ways - some obviously religious and some not. What we choose to do is less important - what matters most is that we do respond to God's invitation.

Let's be still for a moment, to listen to God's call.



Hotline to God! (10 mins)

Five volunteers with mobile phones are needed. **Please note that your phone numbers will only be used for this exercise.** One number is rung at random (they can answer it!). The person who has been called is asked to write their Christian name on the flipchart (or other simple task). The other numbers are called, with the little task being carried out each time.

Everyone must now switch off their phones, and to discuss with their neighbour what actually happened in that exercise. *For Child Protection and Data Protection Act compliance, if you made a note of the names and numbers, this should now be destroyed.)*

Explore in the group:

Someone was 'called' and they replied and were really keen to do so

Only the person who was called could reply

Everyone was called

Everyone was asked to do something as a result of being called.

It's like that when God calls us.

Our response. (10 - 15 mins)

From the pictures of a priest (bishop or pope), a religious sister or brother, a doctor / nurse, a firefighter, an old married couple, a mother and baby, a popstar, a footballer, a young adult, a homeless person, a crowd, a business(wo)man), stuck around the room, choose one to stand beside, which you think shows a vocation. Say why you felt that particular picture represented someone with a vocation.

Explore in the group:

- Whether there were any pictures that you felt did NOT show vocation? If so, why? What is similar between a homeless person and the Pope in terms of vocation?
- What about the crowd? The crowd is not just a blob, but a collection of individuals (firefighters, nurses, teachers, parents) who are all called by God.
- Whether you can have more than one 'vocation'. Think about: The religious was certainly a baby; she may also have been a businesswoman; the popstar may have become a priest; the young adult may have become a doctor and a parent, the footballer may have become the homeless person etc.

So maybe what you **do** is not necessarily the definition of 'vocation'; maybe what you do about it is your **response** to your vocation.

Remember what we said in the introduction - that your vocation is your call to life from God, and your vocational response is what you do about it!

Small group work (15 mins)

Remember the first exercise? Well, imagine you're having a conversation with God about yourself. God is saying 'I want to be always close to you, and I am calling you to be with me. What will you do in your life to stay close to me?' Brainstorm with your neighbour for a couple of minutes, then write down your own answer to God. This may take the form a telephone conversation, txt msg!, story, song, poem, drawing or prayer. These will be brought up during the closing prayer, and will be kept safe and private for the offertory procession in the Confirmation Mass (or Away Weekend). There is no right or wrong answer, your sheets will be folded up and you don't need to put your names on them.

Return to main group for Closing Prayer (5 - 10 mins)

The candle is lit and a short prayer is read to which everyone will respond 'Blessed be God'. While the prayer is being read, each group will bring up their own 'Replies to God' and place it in the dish. (The dish with their sheets will be part of the offertory procession at the Confirmation Mass or Away Weekend.)

Liturgy

Opening Prayer

Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God. Amen

Closing Prayer (Eph 1, selected from vv3-14)

Reader: Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.

All: Blessed be God

Reader: Before the world was made, God chose us ...

All: Blessed be God

Reader: Chose us in Christ to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence ...

All: Blessed be God

Reader: ... determining that we should become his adopted children, through Jesus Christ ...

All: Blessed be God

Reader: ... for his own kind purposes; his free gift to us in the Beloved.

All: Blessed be God

Reader: And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning.

All: Blessed be God

Reader: Now you too, in him have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it; and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised! Through Christ our Lord, **AMEN.**