

SESSION PLAN

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

11 Someone is calling

Vocations

AIMS

1. To enable candidates to reflect about their future and their response to God's call in their lives.
2. To recognise that God calls all of us for a specific 'job' or 'vocation' that requires from us a response and a commitment.
3. To reflect on the meaning of different calls such as Married life, the Priesthood, working in other Communities etc.

PRAYER

- Briefly introduce the main theme of this session: God calling us
- Read the opening prayer and leave a few moments for silent reflection.

KEY WORDS

- Call/vocation
- Follower/Disciple
- Marriage
- Priesthood
- Religious Life
- Organisations, Societies,

RESOURCES

- Worksheet 11
- Prayer Sheet 11
- Pictures/Posters of people from different vocations eg. Married couples, Priests etc.
- Picture: John Paul II

NOTES

For this session you may find it helpful to invite people from different vocations to briefly address the candidates. E.g. Married couple, Priest, Parish Sister, other members of Societies etc.

MAIN SESSION

- Recall discussions from previous sessions on the theme of 'following'. Illustrate how the concept of 'following' entails that there is a 'leader'. Using Part A of worksheet 11 brainstorm for ideas about people candidates know or have heard of who are 'leaders' in different ways. Ask the question: 'who follows this leader?' for each person mentioned.
- Go through Part B to illustrate and reinforce the idea of being '**Followers**' or '**Disciples**' of Jesus. Elicit the fact that we are not followers just because someone is famous (as in the case of following someone regarded as a 'celebrity'!) We follow because we understand that God calls everyone for a '**vocation**'.
- Read through Mt. 4: 18-22 (Part C). Invite candidates to imagine they were part of the story. What would they have done? How would they have reacted to Jesus' call to follow him? Show how the decision to follow Jesus is not an easy one and not one to be taken lightly.
- Move on to Part D which is a more practical section. Go through the different types of calls or vocations i.e. **Married Life**, **Priesthood** and **Religious life**, etc. For each vocation discuss how each should be lived according to God's plan. Elicit the fact that each of these vocations entails being of service to others in different ways. Any vocation should be a response to God's call and a commitment to serve others. (Also see other suggestion in NOTES box re inviting speakers.)
- Also explain that although vocations like the Married life, the Priesthood require solemn commitments for life (vows) there are other ways how one could be of service to others. Discuss examples of following Christ through being active in lay organisations or **Societies** within the Catholic Church e.g. SVP, Legion of Mary and many others (possibly discuss some which are active in the parish or diocese). Show how being active within one of these organisations could also be one way of showing one is truly living as a committed and Confirmed adult Christian.

CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

- Show a picture of Pope John Paul II. Explain how this Pope had young people close at heart. Introduce the reflection 'The world needs you' (Prayer sheet). Show how it is an invitation by Pope John Paul to young people to be brave in saying 'yes' to God's call. We are able to do this because the Holy Spirit who comes to us at Confirmation fills us with his gift of courage.
- Invite one of the candidates to read the reflection - then everyone to reflect on those words in a moment of silence.