

Family service Suggestions for Vocation Sunday 2024.

Please feel free to take up or adapt this material as it best fits your context.

Jesus the Good Shepherd

(As folk come into church hand them a slip of paper with a occupation on it and another 2 pieces of paper with emotions upon it. – see appendix B)

Greeting and welcome:

Hymn

First Reading:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
And leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul
And guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
Through I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
For you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me
In the presence of those who trouble me;
You have anointed my head with oil,
And my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading: John 10:11-18

Conversation Starter (See Appendix A)

Talk. (Suggestion Appendix C)

Possibly interview a pre-arranged member of the congregation about their calling at the point.

An Affirmation of Faith:

Let us declare our faith in God

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn

Intercessions

Collect

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Blessing

(Liturgy from 'Common Worship' and if printed will need to be acknowledged as such)

Alternatively please also see the suggested liturgies for Vocation Sunday on the Church of England website under 'Vocation Sunday'.

Appendix A

Suggested conversation starter

Aim: to explore how Jesus asks us to be His followers and how that can lead us to do what he calls us to.

Ask the congregation to hold up the two pieces of paper that they received on coming into church. (one occupation and two emotions)

Ask that each person shares their words with somebody near to them. (Thus involving everyone but allowing parents to help young children with the language)

Task 1

Think for a moment about the person who does the job that you have on your paper.

Can you give them a name?

What do they wear when they are at work? Who do they meet? Do they like their work?

Do you think that Jesus knows what job they do?

Task 2

Look at the emotions on your piece of paper.

Do you think that the person you have been imagining would feel like this at work? At home? When playing?

Task 3

How would you like to feel about what you spend most of your time doing?

Appendix B

ACTOR

SYSTEMS ANALYST

PHARMACIST

SCHOOL CARETAKER

TEACHER

GARDENER

COOK

FORESTER

GRANNY

NURSE

SWEET MAKER

ACCOUNTANT

SHOP KEEPER

IT SPECIALIST

CAFÉ OWNER

ENGINEER

DOG WALKER

WINDOW CLEANER

STREET CLEANER

LIBRARIAN

PILOT

FISHERMAN

VICAR

MUSICIAN

LAB. TECHNICIAN

AUTHOR

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

ROAD MENDER

ANGRY

SAD

HAPPY

ENTHUSIASTIC

FULFILLED

CALM

PLAYFUL

EXCITED

LATHARGIC

FRUSTRATED

JOYFUL

LOGICAL

INSPIRED

CONFUSED

ANXIOUS

RELAXED

LONELY

DEPRESSED

AMAZED

PEACEFUL

CHATTY

ISOLATED

COURAGEOUS

IRRITATED

PERPLEXED

EFFICIENT

VAGUE

AGGRIVATED

Appendix C

Talk outline

Jesus as 'Good Shepherd'

Shepherd as a job in Jesus' day

Ask what kind of person would make a Good Shepherd. (brave, wise, caring...)

Emphasis the role of GS as guide and protector.

Not all shepherds were good (contrast with hired hands)

How would shepherd feel when it was raining and he was out all night?

When Lions and Bears were prowling round?

When he had missed his breakfast?

When one of the sheep wandered off?

Jesus said that he was like a really good shepherd.

Jesus felt lots of emotions (ask children to call some out some emotions perhaps prompted by the slips of paper. Then suggest times today when Jesus must feel like this – sad because there are wars, happy when children share their toys etc)

Jesus as a good 'spiritual' shepherd wants his followers to 'be' the very best women and men, boys and girls they can be.

Jesus calls each Christian, by their own special name, to **be** his follower.

What we **do** is important because it gives us the opportunity to live out our **being** a Christian.

In time he often calls Christians to **do** the thing in life that makes them feel really alive and excited. We call this 'vocation' or 'calling'.

There are lots and lots of ways we can 'be' what Jesus calls us to be.

As we grow up Jesus sometimes asks us **to 'do'** a job or a voluntary role that he puts on our hearts and in our heads. It is very exciting and sometimes means we have to stop doing other things to make space to do what he calls us to.

The best part is that loads of men and women, girls and boys have listened to what Jesus is calling them to do and they have discovered things and healed things and made things that have changed the world.

So whatever our age or time in life – KEEP LISTENING!