

Vocations Sunday – some ideas

Below are some readings, prayers and ideas for worship that encourage us to explore together our common calling, as God's children, to discipleship. We are invited to reconsider our living out of our commitment to Christ. If God is calling us, individually or corporately, to take up some new challenge, are we listening? Are we ready for service?

Bible Readings:

I Samuel 3:1-10 (Samuel hears God calling)

Psalm 27

Ephesians 1:3-14 (Our common calling as Christians)

Matthew 4:18-23 (The calling of the Disciples)

Suggested hymns (from *Singing the Faith*)

Be Thou My Vision (StF 545)

Brother, sister, let me serve you (StF 611)

Fill Thou My Life, O Lord My God (StF 73)

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (StF 663)

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult (StF 250)

Lead Us Heavenly Father lead us (StF 238)

Master speak, Thy servant heareth (StF 666)

O Jesus I have promised (StF 563)

Seek Ye First (StF 254)

Prayers:

Opening prayer

Lord, as you called your disciples, call us now

Open our ears to listen to your calling

Open our eyes to see you

Open our hearts to your love

Help us to hear you, to experience your presence with us and to love you.

And loving you, let us serve you, our servant King. **Amen**

A Prayer of Commitment

Jesus, you transform the lives of men and women.

In your strength we can do all things and please our sovereign God.

Tame our natures Lord,

Mould us to your need

Fashion us to your taste

And conform us to your will

Enable us and all who hear your call to ministry to give ourselves generously to your service
Send us as workers into the Church and into the World. **Amen**

*(Adapted from Fr Desmond Dale SJ
Prayers for Religious Nairobi: St Paul, 1998)*

Suggestion for a "Time with the Children"/All Age Worship

1. Think about listening for God's call among the distractions of everyday life. Briefly play "Simon says..."
2. Arrange for someone's mobile phone to ring, loudly. The person called answers the phone and we hear his/her side of a conversation. (*Either learn the script or ad lib its equivalent*)
 Person with phone: "Hello...Yes, this is *(name)*... Sorry, I can't hear you, could you speak up? ...Who did you say you were? ...Look, whoever you are, I can't talk now. I'm in Church, could you ring back later, say in an hour?
 ...No, no, I'm going to end this call now.
 ...Look, even if you were God Almighty calling, I can't talk now... (*terminates the call*).
 Worship Leader: Even if God Almighty called, would we be ready to talk?

Suggestion for the "Sermon Slot"

Have a Panel of people who are living out a vocation, within the church or beyond e.g. some may be those who have undertaken Local Preacher Training, Youth Leadership training, they may be ordained persons, or someone who sees their secular role as their vocation i.e. in their paid or voluntary work in non-church organisations (discipleship is our common vocation. How do we live out the faith in our day to day lives?). Interview them/promote a dialogue between them.