

## LESSON 30: Called to Service


### AIM

To help the children understand that Jesus calls his followers to service and what kind of service is appropriate to their state in life. (14.4.1)

### OUTCOME



Learners understand the Christian call to service.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Create a **reflective atmosphere** in the classroom, or, if possible hold this lesson in a chapel. Use candles, drapes of material, an icon of Jesus, and soft background music.
- 2 Hand out the worksheet.  ⇨ Point out the various activities that the learners are invited to, but after that, give as few instructions as is necessary. The learners will reflect on the **Call of Jeremiah** by reading scripture alone, reflecting on it, and responding in personal prayer.
- 3 Just like Jeremiah, every human being is called by God to become something special for others. We say that every human being has a **calling or vocation** to be of service to others. Ask the children to explain the word 'service'. What do they enjoy most about service? Being served or serving? Lead them to see the way Jesus served and taught us how to serve. Examples of this service are the healing of sick people, the washing of the disciple's feet, and helping at the wedding when the people ran out of wine.
- 4 Are we expected to serve each other exactly as Jesus did? Lead the children to consider for themselves the best way they could be **of service to others right now**. It will depend to some extent on the gifts they have been given. They could think of family, school, and church. Ask each learner to write down what they think their special service might be.
- 5 Conclude with a **suitable song**, like *Here I Am, Lord* or *Oh the Word of My Lord* (*The Song of a Young Prophet*).



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Candles, drapes, icon, background music (1)
- \*  Copies of the worksheet (2)(8) ⇨
- \* Posters of people serving others, for example, doctors, nurses, teachers, waiters (3)
- \*  *Here I Am, Lord* or *Oh the Word of My Lord* (5)
- \* Outlines of the human body (6)
- \* Bibles (7)

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6 Give children time to work in groups on a large **outline of the human body** drawn on newsprint. They should write in all the ways in which they as children of Christ can serve others and in turn serve God. These should not be restricted to what the children think is 'expected' of them, for example contributing money to a charity like the Lenten Appeal. They can include such good deeds as visiting an old age home just to talk to the old people, keeping the house neat to help their parents, and so on. In a different colour they could write down what they might become in the future.
- 7 Read [1 Corinthians 12: 12 -30] together with the children. Discuss the reading, emphasising that the parts work together for **the good of the whole body**. In the Church,

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our service does not lead to a physical or financial reward. Remind the children of the early Christians and how they shared everything with each other.

- 8 Invite the learners to rewrite **Jeremiah's response** to God's invitation in the reading on the worksheet. 📖 ⇒ "Ah, Lord God!" I said, "....."

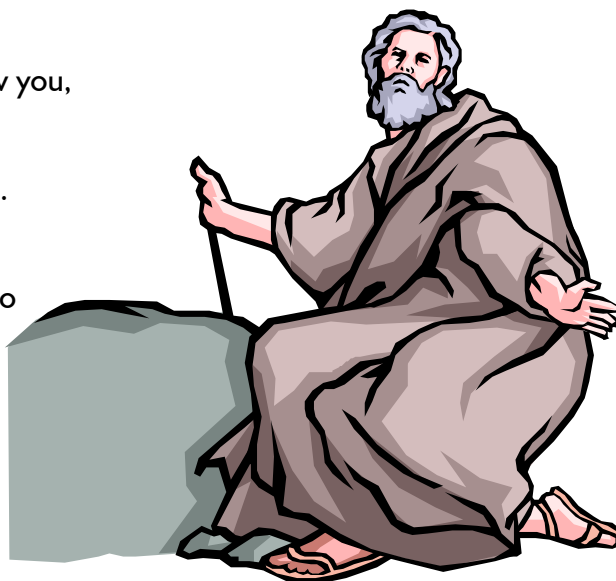
### TO REMEMBER

Each person has a vocation or calling from God to become something special for others.

# The Call of Jeremiah

Read the following scripture passage slowly, letting each word sink in.

The word of the Lord came to me thus:  
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I dedicated you,  
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.  
“Ah, Lord God!” I said,  
“I know not how to speak; I am too young.”  
But the Lord answered me,  
Say not, “I am too young.”  
To whomever I send you, you shall go;  
whatever I command you, you shall speak.



Have no fear before them,  
because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.

[Jeremiah 1:4-8]

Things to think about:

*The word of the Lord came to me*

God speaks to me through scripture, through the Church, through people in my life, and through the events of each day. I must listen to God’s Word. Is God saying anything special to me today?

*A prophet to the nations I appointed you*

In some way God challenges and invites me. If I am open to the Word of God my life will change, and I will have a good influence on the lives of others.

*Have no fear, because I am with you*

God will be there in times of difficulty. God will provide what we need to overcome our difficulty. With this assurance we can trust God.

Read this prayer on your own in silence.

Lord, you have a plan for me. Help me to discover this plan. Holy Spirit, help me to be attentive to God’s word. Lord, give me courage to face the challenge of your call every day. Help me to trust in you.

## LESSON 31: Considering Service

### AIM

To guide the children in preparing a paraliturgy to give thanks to God for the different ministries and services we give and receive (5.4.9, 5.4.12).

### OUTCOME

Learners participate in preparing a liturgical celebration.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Bibles, hymn books (4)
- \* Bibles (5)
- \* *♪ Come, Lord Jesus, Come; God's Spirit is in My Heart, Our God Reigns* (5)
- \* Crucifix, candles, matches, flowers, incense, icons, background music (5)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Ministries in the Church:** Ask the groups to brainstorm the different ministries they are aware of in the parish context. As they give feedback, make a list of ministries and next to it give the names of the people who usually attend to them:

presiding at liturgical celebrations	parish priest
preaching	parish priest, deacon
teaching	catechists
distributing Communion	ministers of the Eucharist
reading the scriptures	readers
preparing the altar	sacristan
assisting the celebrant	altar servers
helping the poor	societies
visiting the sick	ministers of the sick
welcoming people	hospitality
leading music	choir, cantor
maintaining the church building	manager
managing the community's finances	treasurer

Explain that the word 'ministry' means service.

Tell the learners that in this lesson they will be preparing a celebration to thank God for all these ministries, and for the opportunity their lives provide of offering service to others.

- 2 Both the preparation and the celebration will provide the learners with **an experience of serving** one another as parts of a single body - in this case, the class.
- 3 Lead the class in discussion of how they would like to celebrate. What kind of things will be done? **Aspects to consider** are:
  - the venue (to be decorated)
  - songs and music (to be chosen and practised)
  - readings (to be chosen and prepared)

- prayers (to be chosen or written)
- reflections (to be chosen)
- actions and movements (to be decided and practised)
- symbols and things to be used

4 Organise the class into **groups** who will take responsibility for their given or chosen aspect, keeping in mind the theme - Thanksgiving for ministries and service. It will be necessary to have one small group in charge of coordinating and planning the sequence of the paraliturgy. Supply each group with what they need, for instance, Bibles, prayerbooks, and songbooks, and give suggestions wherever asked or needed.

5 **Some suggestions:**

The outline of a suggested paraliturgy is given in LESSON 32. In addition, here are further suggestions:

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20: 24 -28; I Corinthians 12: 12 - 30

#### MOVEMENT

Allow the children time to think about how best to present the chosen reading. A group tasked with movement would, for example, set the reading to mime.

#### PRAYER

The learner group will choose known prayers or write their own to suit the theme.

#### HYMNS

Select hymns appropriate to the theme. The following are only suggestions. You can find ones that are easier, or that come from the different languages the children know: *Come, Lord Jesus, Come; God's Spirit is in My Heart, Our God Reigns*. If the children know other hymns or choruses that can fit in with the theme of service, these may also be learnt and sung in the celebration.

#### PREPARING THE ROOM

Where there is no separate room for the teaching of Religious Education, arrange the use of one of the freer rooms in the school. If the former is not possible, rearrange the furniture in the class so that everyone can sit comfortably in a circle. Think of items like crucifix, candles, flowers, incense, icons, background music.

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

6 If there is time for it, have a **run through** so that everyone knows what they are doing and so that all materials are prepared and gathered

## LESSON 32: Celebrating Our Call

### AIM

To give the children a chance to participate in a paraliturgical celebration that they have designed and prepared (5.4.9).

### OUTCOME

Learners participate in a liturgical celebration that they have prepared.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 In this lesson the actual celebration of the paraliturgy prepared in LESSON 31 takes place. Make sure that the room and everything else necessary is **prepared well in advance**. Play quiet reflective music to greet the children as they arrive. This will help to create an atmosphere conducive to prayer and reflection right from the start.
- 2 **The Celebration:** Possible format  
(May be used as it is, or changed to suit the preparations of the class)

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** *Come, Lord Jesus, Come*

While this is sung, representatives of the groups who worked in LESSONS 29&30 bring up the posters and body outlines and display them in an appointed place.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Lord we come as your children today to give thanks to you for the special call you make to each of us. We are thankful that you accept every contribution we make to your body, the Church, no matter how small. Bless all the people in our lives who have accepted the more challenging calls, like our priests, our teachers, our doctors, our Eucharistic ministers and our choir members. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

**READING:** [1Cor 12:12-30]. The reading will be read by five children, each taking a paragraph as follows: I [12-13], II [14-17], III [18-21], IV [22-26], V [27-30]. Pauses between the parts are accompanied by a mime of the previous verses read to allow reflection on what these verses may mean. The reflection may be shared, if desired.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD:** *God's Spirit is in My Heart*

**PRAYERS** that the children have prepared are now said.

**RESPONSE TO EACH PRAYER:** Sing - Yizwa imithandazo yethu, Nkosi sikelela thina lusapho lwayo.

**OFFERING:** Each learner brings up a chosen object to symbolise the kind of service he or she will offer to their family, school, or parish. While this is done, background music could be played. If there is a talented musician in the class, a solo could be played or sung.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Lord accept our prayers which we offered for all your servants. Bless all, especially who are considering the call to marriage, to priesthood, and to the religious life. Bless all the members of our school community. May they come to know the gifts of service you have given them, and to realise the joy that lies in serving others. Amen.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* The room prepared; quiet reflective music (1)
- \* Words for the hymns that have been chosen - *Come, Lord Jesus, Come, God's Spirit is in My Heart* (2)
- \* Bible (2)
- \* Learners' symbolic offerings (2)