

6th Grade Boys “Catholic Vision of Love” Study Guide

Video: “Called: Discover Your Vocation”

Session 1- What is a Vocation? (18min)

- Introduction
 - The questions we yearn to answer are: "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" To find the answers, we need to begin with an understanding of the true desires of our hearts and how those desires align with the God who loves us more than we love ourselves.
- Main Points
 - God wants you to have a full life with complete joy
 - God has a plan for us. He made us for a purpose
 - God is calling us not just to do something or another, but to be someone
 - Vocation- relationship between who God is and who you are; it's not simply a job
 - Our identity is a child of God. God wants to have a close intimate relationship with you
 - God made us good, true, and beautiful and His plan for you is to bring that beauty, truth, and goodness to fulfillment.
 - Our vocation is about finding our true identity in God
 - Our vocation is to be in loving relationship with God and to be willing to let Him do with us what He needs to do because He loves us
 - God has a plan for my life; That plan will make me happy; I need to ask God in prayer
 - “Jesus Christ, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and of the Father’s love fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear.”- Second Vatican Council
 - A call by God is a call of love from love Himself.
 - Because of God’s love he wants to draw us into an intimate relationship with Himself, so that you can become holy according to His plan of love for you.
 - God wants our happiness more than we do
- Discussion Questions
 - Father Traynor makes a distinction between the jobs he does as a priest and his vocation as a priest. Why is this distinction important?
 - What do you think would be personally fulfilling about the priesthood? What do you think would be personally fulfilling about consecrated life? What do you think would be personally fulfilling about married life?
 - Do you trust that God wants to bring you happiness in your life and that His plan for you will bring that ultimate happiness?
 - On the one hand, Father Traynor desired that God would raise up strong, holy priests for the Church. On the other hand, he had no desire to be one of those strong, holy priests. So he prayed a very courageous prayer: “Father, if you want me to be a priest, I need You to give me the desire to be a priest!” Why is this a courageous prayer?
- Scripture
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - John 10:10
 - John 15:11
 - John 5:17,19

Session 2- What is Discernment? (19min)

- Introduction
 - God has called each of us to specific missions, based on who we are and the gifts he has given us. But how do we discern that calling? We can start with the “classroom of silence”—an exterior and interior place where we can discover the depths of prayer and learn to hear God’s voice.
- Main Points
 - Your vocation is something that is hardwired into your very being
 - To discover your vocation is to discover who God created you to be
 - God has placed us right here, right now in this time and place to serve
 - You are part of His solution to the world’s problems, part of His cure for the world’s sickness, His light to the world’s darkness
 - “God knows me and calls me by my name. God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes...I have a part in this great work: I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good: I shall do His work.”- John Henry Cardinal Newman “Some Definite Service”
 - God has given you talents and abilities to serve Him in specific ways and only He knows what you can do if you can answer His call
 - How do we become holy?
 - Prayer- need to find a quiet place (sanctuary) to hear God’s voice
 - God doesn’t want a long distance relationship with you. He wants to be near you
 - God often whispers into our hearts and in silence
 - To have an intimate relationship with someone 4 things usually happen- I know their thoughts, feelings, and desires, and they know mine
 - How do you make yourself known to God in prayer?- A.R.R.R. (Acknowledge, Relate, Receive, Respond)
 - 5 Other Important Things to grow in our relationship with Jesus- Scripture, Sacraments, Friendships, Service, Retreat
- Discussion Questions
 - Have you ever asked yourself the questions: Why am I here? Why has God created me? What is my purpose? What does God want me to do?
 - Father Martin uses the example of a hammer to demonstrate how things are designed for a specific use, a purpose. To use it in other ways would be inefficient and frustrating. What does it mean that your vocation is something hard-wired into your very being?
 - Father Martin recommends finding a “sanctuary,” a place of quiet, where you can retreat every day in order to grow in your prayer life. When was the last time you were in a place where it was absolutely quiet? How would you describe your experience in that quiet place? Were you peaceful, or anxious, or bored? Were you aware of God’s presence?
- YouCat: #342, 469-470, 498-499, 503-508

- Scripture
 - Jeremiah 1:5
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - 1 Kings 19:11-13

Video- True Strength: Becoming the Man You Were Created to Be

Session 1 – The Heart of a Man, Part 1

- Introduction
 - It's in the heart of a man to be significant, to make his mark on the world, to do "great things" no matter how large or small. That's what it takes to be a real man. But is that true? Is being real the same as being great? This YDISCIPLINE study examines the cultural view of being a real man in contrast to God's view—and it may be a surprise to find out what God means by great.
- Part 1
 - “The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness.”- Pope Benedict XVI
 - Greatness isn't just success at the things you accomplish and what you do, but a success at who you are
- Part 2
 - St. Maximilian Kolbe- voluntarily took the place of a prisoner to be starved to death because the prisoner had a family
 - Put all your gifts, talents, and desires at the service of God and others and then you will be truly great
- Discussion Questions
 - Can you think of an example or a story of a man you know who has made a positive impression on you?
 - What are some of the obstacles that exist to becoming a man of God? What temptations in our lives can make it hard to become saints?
 - What is the distinction between being a man of greatness and doing great things? What are some qualities of people who are truly great—not just “a big deal”?
 - What's one thing that inspires you from St. Maximilian Kolbe's example?
- Scripture
 - Matthew 16:24-27

Session 2 – The Heart of a Man, Part 2

- Introduction
 - In this second study about manhood, we'll look at God's call to be men of greatness, as demonstrated through four distinctive "marks." We'll also learn about saints who were soldiers, the virtues of knighthood, and how to gain real spiritual freedom in the quest for greatness. Presented by Chris Stefanick.
- Part 1
 - A real man loves Jesus
 - To be committed means to be on a personal mission to join yourself together with others. To make of yourself a gift to others.
 - Most men are on mission for themselves
 - "When you wonder about the mystery of yourself, look to Christ who gives you the meaning of life. When you wonder what it means to be a mature person, look to Christ who is the fullness of humanity. And when you wonder about your role in the future of the world...look to Christ." - St. Pope John Paul II
 - Jesus was a true man who was committed to his bride, the Church, and to others
 - We see Christ's full manliness when He hung on the cross
 - We need to put Jesus at the center of our lives, and look to him as the example of what true manhood is
- Part 2
 - Real men of greatness live for other people
 - We can't be childish and think the world centers around us
 - The world doesn't need more rock stars, it needs more saints that image Jesus
- Part 3
 - A real man of greatness serves women
 - A real man is someone who takes all that testosterone we have and puts it at the service of others and women
 - God's not calling you to kill those strong desires within you. He wants to make you heroic and chivalrous
 - We can either become knights of chivalry or barbarians
 - We need to be courageous and stand up for the dignity of women
 - Purity makes you a real man because it frees you up to love. Love is impossible without purity. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). This is because God is love.
 - We can't see love without purity because love gives itself to another while lust takes and makes an object out of another
- Part 4
 - A real man of greatness forms his heart in virtue
 - Virtue- habit of doing something good; Vice- habit of doing something bad
 - Virtues allow us to live lives to the full and it frees us
 - Freedom is the power to do what is good
 - Tips for building up virtues to set you free of your vices to make you a real man

- 1. Examine your conscience
 - 2. Have to have accountability
 - 3. Go to Confession
- Discussion Questions
 - Think of a man in your life who is an example of true manhood, and who impacted your life in a positive way. What are the qualities that make him a great man? How does he reflect the qualities you see in Jesus?
 - Can you describe a time when you or a guy you know stood up to defend a woman's dignity, or a time when you didn't but should have? How will this experience prepare you to defend the dignity of a woman in the future?
 - Do you have a patron saint? Who is a saint you can ask to help you become a person of greatness?
- Scripture
 - Philippians 2:3-11
 - Matthew 5:8
 - John 10:10
 - Philippians 4:4-9

Session 3 – Band of Brothers, Part 1

- Introduction
 - As witnessed in YDISCIPLE groups, men yearn for more than just friendship; they want brotherhood—true brothers and mentors who will support them, guide them, and keep them accountable as they seek to follow Christ. But where do they find brotherhood, and how can they be sure it's the right kind?
- Part 1
 - What does brotherhood in Jesus Christ mean?- Brothers that hold you up, keep you accountable, have each other's backs
- Part 2
 - Jesus teaches all of us to call God our Father which makes all of us brothers
 - Christian brotherhood lets us do things that we never could've done on our own. It makes us dependent on one another but it means someone else is going to be building us up
 - 4 key things to brotherhood in Christ
 - Friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, purpose
- Discussion Questions
 - Describe a time when you were able to do something because someone had your back. How did their encouragement and support get you through it and help you accomplish your goal?
 - The key attributes of true brotherhood in Christ are friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, and purpose. Is there a person in your life who embodies all of these attributes? What are some examples of living these out?
 - Who do you consider to be a part of your band of brothers right now? Who are your close friends and your mentors?
 - How is brotherhood different from friendship?

- Scripture
 - Mark 6:7-13
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
 - Sirach 6:14-17
 - John 15:12-17
 - Romans 12:9-21
 - 1 & 2 Samuel (Examples of David and Jonathan's friendship)
 - Book of Ruth (Ruth and Naomi's friendship)

Session 4: Band of Brothers, Part 2

- Introduction
 - What does it mean to be a “band of brothers” when following Jesus? In this continuation of our discussion about brotherhood, we'll look at the biblical story of a man named David and his friendship with Jonathan, the son of the king that David is about to replace. The heart of their relationship—in times of comradere and conflict—has a lot to teach us about the importance of our "band of brothers."
- Part 1
 - The Israelites were terrified of Goliath, but David took on Goliath and David's courage lifted his brothers up to something they never thought they could do. He made them better than they were
 - David becomes friends with Jonathan after the battle. Their friendship is considered one of the most profound in the Bible
 - Good friendship is loyalty, shared vision, and purpose
 - David and Jonathan stood together and felt that they could change the world for the better for God
- Part 2
 - King David falls into laziness, adultery, child out of wedlock, murder, & cover-up
 - Nathan as a good brother and friend confronts David about the sin he committed which leads David to seek forgiveness from God
 - Brotherhood allows us to be better than who we thought we could be
- Part 3
 - We are on a field of battle, a spiritual battle with constant temptation from people to convince you to be something that you are not, to do something that you know you shouldn't do
 - We need people standing side by side with us with their shields that will cover the most vulnerable sides of us in battle
 - Are you willing to risk something to have brothers that will have your back?
- Discussion Questions
 - 1 Samuel 17—How does Jonathan help David assume his role as king? What qualities does Jonathan have that make him a good friend? What characteristics of brotherhood do David and Jonathan share? How is God calling you to help your friends in the circumstances and challenges of their lives?
 - 2 Samuel 11-12—How does Nathan help David repent of his sin and turn back to God? Have you ever been in a situation where you had to call someone out, or where

someone was calling you out and you had to be accountable? What ways does God use your friend to call you to be a better man?

- What kind of impact do you think a love for God can have on a friendship?
 - Why is it difficult to really change your life for Christ on your own? How can your friends—your brothers and sisters—help you to be accountable to your values and your faith?
 - How can you help a brother or sister in Christ who is struggling to live out his/her faith? How can you be an encouraging support, or kindly call him or her to be strong in faith? How can you bring your friends closer to Christ?
- Scripture
 - 2 Samuel 11-12
 - Philippians 1:27
 - 1 Samuel 17:42-47
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12