

We Help the Church



Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 14, ages 4-5

Lesson 14 Goal

- Your child will learn that many God calls us to use our gifts to serve him and others.

Key Points

- God gives us talents, and calls us to use those talents for him.
- People in the Church help in many different ways.



Parent Reflection

In Chapter 12 of Saint Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians, we find a discussion of the Church as the Body of Christ—one Body, whose various members are called to work together in harmony. Each member of the Body has a special role, and we all need one another.

As Saint Paul states, we all have a place in the Body of Christ. At Mass, we can serve as greeters, ushers, lectors, musicians, altar servers, or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. We can also serve through works of social service or charity, helping with food pantries, drives for basic material needs, outreach to the sick and those in prison, and other services to the poor, marginalized, or those in crisis. The variety of opportunities to serve is a sign of the diversity of gifts given to us by God and the various ways in which God calls our Church to act in the world.

Reflection Question

What are some of the gifts I see present and in use within my own parish community?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- ☐ Family Activity Sheet
- ☐ crayons or colored pencils
- ☐ paper
- ☐ Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather to-

gether a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- ☐ Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: *“Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”*

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, *“A gift or talent is something we do well. God the Father gives his people many gifts and talents. Because Jesus’ followers long ago used their gifts to serve God and one another, they helped make the Church stronger. We understand that God gives us gifts and talents so that we, too, can do his work. In our church family, we see how some of these gifts are used. Let’s thank God for the people in church who use their gifts and talents.”*

Begin in prayer:

Pray the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“God our Father, thank you, for our gifts and talents. May we use them to do your work. Amen.”

Discovering

Our Gifts. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about gifts.

Ask your child, “How do we share our talents with others?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Our Own Special Gifts. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. “I Can Thank Jesus for My Gifts” Art. Ask your child to think of one gift or talent that he or she has.

Say, *“Everyone has gifts and talents to use for God’s work. Many people in our church family use their gifts to help at Mass.”*

Give your child colored pencils or crayons and paper so that for drawing a picture for Jesus and thank him for the gifts in our lives. Place the pic-

ture in front of a statue of Jesus at home.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint John

Bosco. Show your child the picture of Saint John Bosco on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint John Bosco to your child (see below).

Ask your child:

- What was one way that John Bosco did God's work with the poor children?
- How can you follow his example?

Have your child write and draw about Saint John Bosco using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

"Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for the many gifts you give us. Bless our family and keep us safe. Amen."

Saint John Bosco

Helping Children with a Smile

John Bosco lived in Italy a long time ago. As a boy, he taught himself to walk across a rope stretched tightly between two fence posts. Standing on a post, he put one foot and then the other on the rope. He tried to walk across it. He fell. He tried and fell again. But soon he walked across the rope without falling!

He also taught himself to juggle and do gymnastic tricks. John sang and told great stories. He remembered everything he learned. And he was always smiling! Other children loved being with him.

John was from a poor family, but he had many gifts from the Holy Spirit. His mother taught him that God loved him greatly. John grew up knowing he would use his many gifts to do God's work.

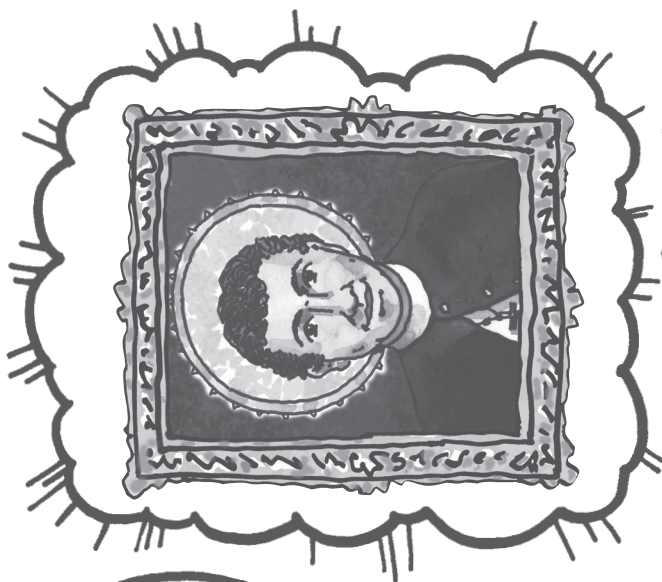
Wearing old, worn-out clothes, John went to

school and worked hard. When he grew up, he became a priest.

During Saint John Bosco's time, there were many children in Italy who were poor and hungry. John understood that God wanted him to work with these children. First, he juggled, walked a tightrope, did flips, told stories, and sang songs. The children began watching him. Soon, they were talking and singing with him. Then they were praying with him.

John soon got a home where these children could live. He became their teacher, he cooked for them, he played ball games, cooked their food, and helped them get good jobs when they were older. Most important, he taught them that God loved each one of them greatly. John helped hundreds of children.

DRAW



**Saint
John Bosco,
pray for us!**