

*Tell me what you mean.***MATERIALS LIST:**

Bible, flowers, plant candle, matches or paper wick for prayer center
 6 Cards with words:
 Baptism
 Call
 Vocation
 Disciple
 Missionary
 Holy and Happy
 Word Search exercise
 Song: "What Chu Say Isaiah"
 by Charles F. Lotta,
Sharing God's Promises
 William H. Sadlier, Inc. 1979
 11 Park Place
 New York, New York 10007

VOCATION FOCUS:

- To see how Jesus called his disciples.
- To reflect on God's message to us about our vocation.

REFLECTING:

Words. It is certainly hard to imagine life without words. There is even debate as to whether we are able to think without words. Words are so much a part of our lives, they can become one of the things we take for granted. But words can be wonderful, and it is good to stop and reflect on their importance.

Spoken and written words are important. And the words "I love you" may be the most important words for all of us to hear or to read. How wonderful that God shares this message of "I love you" through the Scriptures and through Jesus. John refers to Jesus as the Word of God. How good of God to share the Word with us.

It is our responsibility to share the good news of God's love and salvation with our students, and to inspire them to be disciples of the Word also.

AIMS:

- To consider how important words are for communication.
- To look to Scripture to see why Jesus is called the Word of God.
- To define words that relate to vocation.

Focus Question:
*"What did you say?"***TALKING:**

Ask the children what they say when they cannot hear someone speaking. Some might respond with, "What?" "I beg your pardon." "Please" "Would you say that again please?" or "Excuse me."

Then ask them why we ask another to repeat what they have said if we have not heard or understood them. Help them to realize that we cannot communicate if we cannot hear. We do not know how to respond unless we know what has been said. Explain that this is why deaf people learn to read lips or sign language. It is also why people who do not speak the same language need an interpreter to help them communicate.

Ask the children if any of them have been to the United Nations or have seen on television how people wear head sets to have a language translated for them. Remind them that when the United States' president and a leader from Russia speak, they must have an interpreter.

Now direct the discussion to the word of God. Ask the children where we find God's word. Affirm the answer that we find God's word in the Bible (Scriptures).

Then tell the children that John in his gospel (John 1:1) says that Jesus is the Word of God. One of the reasons that John says this is because Jesus came to tell us of God's love for each of us. Jesus went from town to town and city to city to share his words with the people who lived there. Jesus also sent his friends, the twelve apostles to speak to people. Then one day he sent seventy-two of his friends to go to different towns. Jesus wanted these messengers to tell the people how much God loves them and how peace will fill their lives if they do what God wants them to do.

The words spoken by these messengers were important for the people who heard them. And they are important for us almost 2,000 years later.

Then state: I have some words to share with you today.

Let's discuss what they mean and what you think of when you see or hear these words. (For young children who cannot read, you will have to say the word as you hold up the card.)

Hold up the card with the word "Baptism". Encourage responses that say we became special members in God's family through Baptism.