

Gracious God, in our baptism you have called us to live in love for you and for one another. Fill our hearts with such faith in your grace that we are free to love and serve so that you are glorified. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In this lesson, we are expanding on the idea of what we do now that we don't have to do anything. Christian vocation is the work we do because we love God and one another.

Part 1 Christian Vocation

Read Matthew 5:13-16

1. In these verses Matthew uses two images to talk about Christian Vocation: Salt and Light. What does he say about:

a. Salt?

b. Light?

2. Matthew says "let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." Given what we learned in the video . . . how is letting our light shine the way we live out our Christian Vocation?

3. How is "salting the world" (my expression) the way we live out our Christian Vocation?

Read John 21:15-17

4. In this resurrection story Jesus appears to his disciples, but he directs this part of his encounter toward Peter.

a. What question does Jesus ask Peter three times?

b. What response does Peter give each time Jesus asks him?

c. What three commands does Jesus give Peter in response to him?

5. What do you think Peter tending/feeding Jesus' sheep will really look like in Peter's life?

6. What does Peter's love of Jesus have to do with "feeding/tending sheep?"

The First Estate – The Church – Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

7. In verse 7, what does Paul say is the purpose of our spiritual gifts? What does Paul mean?

8. Notice the juxtaposition of the words “varieties” and “same” in verses 4-6. By repeating those “opposite” words over and over, what is Paul trying to emphasize?

9a. What are the spiritual gifts that Paul lists?

b. When you think about Christian vocation, why do you think it is so important to Paul that we recognize and honor one another’s gifts?

The Second Estate – Government/Society – Read Romans 13:1-7 & Luke 2:1-7

10a. What is Paul’s instruction with regards to the governing authorities?

b. What is Paul’s reasoning in verse 4 for such obedience?

11a. Who were the political power brokers at the time during the time that the nativity story is being told?

b. Mary was pregnant. Why in the world were they traveling during such a sensitive time?

12. As a matter of Christian Vocation, why were Mary and Joseph moved to travel just to be registered?

The Third Estate – The Home – Read Ephesians 5:21-6:9

13. Before we deal with these three home relationships, a quick word . . . you need to read these verses considering the time they were written – patriarchy and servitude (not really slavery as we have known it in the United States) were a part of these verses. How might we read these in a way that we can remove the patriarchy and slavery, but still learn something? Okay?

a. Paul’s summary statement in this section is verse 21. What does Paul say and what does this statement mean?

b. Get beyond the offensive “wives be subject . . .” part of husbands and wives. What is Paul saying should be the relationship between husbands and wives as they live out their Christian vocation?

c. How are children to live out their Christian vocation?

14. How is Christian vocation lived out between servants and masters?

Part 2 What Does This Have to Do With My Life?

15. How are you living out your Christian vocation in the three estates of your life?