

Could You Be a Lutheran Teacher or Pastor?

A few weeks passed, and Kelsey tried not to ask Mr. Johnson about his call. Then one Sunday after the worship service, their pastor read a letter from Mr. Johnson to the congregation. In it their teacher said he was returning the call to the other school. Kelsey almost jumped out of her pew.

“Dad, did you hear that?” she whispered loudly. “Mom! Mom! He’s staying!”

At school the next day, Mr. Johnson said, “I guess you’ve all heard the news! I’m looking forward to more years of teaching about Jesus our Savior here at our church and school.”

“So what’s that other school going to do?” Mike asked.

“They’ll probably call someone else, and then that teacher will have to decide what to do. Or they may ask Martin Luther College for a graduate—someone who is ready for his or her first call.”

Kelsey thought about the kids in that other school, wondering who their new teacher would be. She raised her hand. “Are there lots of schools that need Lutheran teachers?”

Mr. Johnson smiled. One thing he had hoped his class would realize is that their school and congregation were part of a much bigger synod. “There are hundreds of churches and schools in our synod. So we need thousands of teachers and pastors,” he said. The kids looked surprised. “You know who some of our future pastors and teachers might be?”

“My brother at MLC!” Mike said.

“Yep,” Mr. Johnson said. “And who else?”

Kelsey raised her hand. She knew what answer Mr. Johnson was looking for. “Us?” she said simply.

“That’s right, Kelsey. You. Some of you might be our future pastors and teachers. Now that’s something to think about, isn’t it?”

Mark 1:17 “Come, _____ me,” Jesus said,
“and I will send you out to _____ for people.”

Discussion

1. What did God lead Mr. Johnson to do with his call to the other school? *Mr. Johnson returned it. He decided to stay.*
2. What surprised the students? *They were surprised that the synod had hundreds of churches and schools and thousands of pastors and teachers.*
3. Who did Mr. Johnson say might be some of the future pastors and teachers in the synod? *Underline the answer in your devotion. Last paragraph: "Some of you might be our future pastors and teachers." Some of Kelsey's class might become pastors and teachers. Explain that it's only a story, but that in real life, some of them might become pastors and teachers one day.*
4. What two words are missing from the passage? *Follow, fish.* Remember that Jesus said this when he called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be his disciples. What did Jesus mean when he said they would "fish for people"? *He meant they would preach the gospel—the good news that Jesus is the Savior, and the Holy Spirit would "catch" people for Jesus—give people faith in Jesus as their Savior.*
5. Pastors and teachers are definitely "fishers of people." They share the gospel all day every day. If you decide not to become a pastor or teacher when you grow up, how will you still be a fisher of people? *You'll still tell people about Jesus. Maybe it won't be all day every day, but you'll share it with your family in your home, and with your neighbors and friends, and maybe even at work. We're excited to talk about Jesus. It's truly good news that all our sins are forgiven and we're going to heaven! Of course, we want to share that good news.*

Activity—Special Training for Pastors

The children will learn how to make three Hebrew letters.

1. Say the letters. The pronunciations are on the sheet.
2. Trace or color the three letters. Or practice writing them on another sheet of paper.
3. Have the students open their Bibles to Psalm 119. (It's very close to the exact middle of the Bible.) Show them the names of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet. *The next letter after Gimel is Daleth.*
4. Answer: *Backwards—right to left.*

Prayer: Thank you for your Word, Jesus. Please help us to listen to it closely and share it with others whenever we can. And please help all of us to think about whether we'd like to share your good news full-time as a pastor or teacher. Amen.

Optional Hymn: 746 I Love to Tell the Story