

## What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?

How many times has an adult asked you, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

What do you answer? An astronaut? A horse trainer? A chef?

Those are all great answers! But did you know that God calls you to work for him? No matter what your job is when you grow up, God’s job for you is to share his love with everyone you meet. God created you to do good works to show others God’s love!

You might not know what you want to be when you grow up, but God already knows what you’ll be, because he is omniscient (all-knowing)! Isn’t that crazy? He also knows all the people that you will meet and tell about Jesus someday.

Your teachers, pastors, and staff ministers decided that when they grew up, they wanted to share Jesus with lots of people. That’s why you get to hear about Jesus from them.

Pastors, teachers, and staff ministers go to a special school called Martin Luther College to learn the best way to share Jesus with their students and people they meet. They study many different subjects, and they play sports, and they sing in choir and play in band, and do all kinds of other cool college things. They also go to chapel and study the Bible every day so that they are ready to work for God!

After graduating from Martin Luther College, teachers get to go into classrooms like yours and teach you math and science and art. But most importantly, they get to tell you about Jesus and his amazing love for you.

Staff ministers get to work in churches in all kinds of different ways: teaching Bible classes and Sunday school, helping plan the worship services, or inviting people to come to church.

Future pastors get to go to another school after graduating from Martin Luther College. It’s called Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. This is a school for men who want to be pastors of churches. They read and study the Bible every day with their friends and professors so that they are ready to be leaders of their own churches someday.

These are all really important jobs! Maybe the next time an adult asks you what you want to be when you grow up, you might answer, “I want to share Jesus with people every day for my job—like a teacher, pastor, or staff minister!”

**Ephesians 2:10:** For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do \_\_\_\_\_ works, which \_\_\_\_\_ prepared in advance for us to do.

**Discussion:**

1. How does God know what we will be when we grow up? *He is omniscient, or all-knowing. He created us and planned out our life.*
2. What does it mean to be “God’s handiwork?” *It means that God created us himself, much like an artist makes a painting or a poet writes a poem. He made us beautiful, and he knows everything about us, all our gifts and abilities, because he’s our Creator.*
3. What is something that pastors and teachers do when they go to college at Martin Luther College to help them share Jesus? *Many answers are correct. Be sure to emphasize that the students go to chapel and study God’s Word every day.*
4. *Teachers, tell your students why you decided to become a teacher.*
5. *Teachers, tell your students what your favorite part about being a teacher is.*

**Activity: Two Truths and a Lie About Going to MLC and the Seminary**

1. Hand out Lesson 2 Activity: Two Truths and a Lie
2. Do the worksheet as a class, or separate your class into small groups to work through it.
3. Come together and share the answers.
4. If it’s helpful, share a photo of each school. Visit [mlc-wels.edu/project-elijah-photos](http://mlc-wels.edu/project-elijah-photos) for images to use.
5. If you attended MLC or the seminary, please feel free to elaborate on the topics! For question 7, for example, tell them about all the sports at MLC or what you loved about playing or watching sports there. Your own personal stories will make this lesson come alive!

**Answer Key:** *The following are the “lies.”*

1. **C** *There is no cotton candy machine, but the unlimited access and ice cream are true. You can also make waffles with whipped cream.*
2. **A** *If you want to be a pastor, after high school, you first go to MLC to get your regular college degree (your bachelor’s degree in biblical languages), and then you go to the seminary to receive your master’s degree.*
3. **B** *There are actually several choirs, including a Women’s Choir, Men’s Choir, Chorale, and College Choir, which goes on tour to a different part of the country every year.*
4. **B** *There is a racquetball court, but everyone can use it.*
5. **C** *There are many online classes you can take, during the school year and during the summer. But you don’t have to take any online classes if you don’t want to.*
6. **A** *Lots of seminary students are married and get to live in their own houses close to school with their families. Students can get married at MLC too, although not many of them do.*
7. **C** *Sports teams practice every night after school and have lots of games, so you can only play one sport at a time. But you can play three sports in one year as long as they are in different seasons! (Not many colleges allow you to do that!)*

**Optional Hymn Verse: Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give (CW 896:1)**