

## A Job Filled with JOY!

Mia was ready! Everything was prepped. The work was done. All that was left to do was the final experiment. But Mia was a bit nervous about everything working out perfectly in front of the judges for the Science Fair.

As the judges came to her table, doubt crept into Mia's head: *I can't remember if I added enough baking soda. Oh no! I think I forgot the measuring cup!* The perfect amounts of vinegar and baking soda were needed to make the volcano "erupt." It was too late. Mia had to trust that everything was going to work out.

"It worked!" Mia exclaimed, as the baking soda and vinegar mixture erupted in a perfect mess out of her hand-formed, clay volcano. She couldn't believe it when the judges laid a first-place ribbon on her table. Mia felt so much joy! "This is the best day ever! I never want to forget this feeling!" she said.

Have you ever been filled with so much joy that you don't want the feeling to end? Pastors, teachers, and staff ministers get to feel that joy all the time in their jobs! Not only do they get to help with cool science fair projects, direct the school musicals, and coach sports teams, but they get to share Jesus with their congregations and students every day!

Imagine the joy a pastor feels when he gets to baptize a baby in church and knows that God has adopted that child into his family. Imagine the joy a teacher feels when she hears her students sing "Jesus Loves Me" for the very first time, and she knows that God is working faith in their hearts.

People who decide to become pastors, teachers, or staff ministers have a passion for spreading God's Word. This passion grows when they attend school at Martin Luther College. The more they read and study the Word of God, the more God makes them excited for their job.

At Martin Luther College there are lots of things that might fill someone with joy—playing sports, being in the musical, hanging out with friends in the dorm, going to chapel, eating a late-night ice cream snack in the cafeteria. But none of those things compares to the joy a teacher, pastor, or staff minister has when they get to share Jesus with everyone around them each day at work!

One day you could be a joy-filled teacher, pastor, or staff minister too!

**John 15:11** [Jesus said,] "I have told you this so that my \_\_\_\_\_ may be in you and that your joy may be \_\_\_\_\_."

**Discussion:**

1. What did Mia doubt right before the judges showed up at her table at the Science Fair? *She doubted that she had everything just right and that the experiment would work out just right.*
2. What emotion did Mia feel after the judges placed a blue ribbon on her experiment? Describe a time that you have also felt that emotion. *She felt joy. (Open for student answers.)*
3. Pastors and teachers get to feel joy all the time in their jobs. Write down some things in a pastor's or teacher's job that bring them great joy. Get creative! *Baptizing a child, hearing students sing about Jesus, witnessing forgiveness between people, confirming new members, etc. (There is also great joy in these jobs that isn't always associated with God's Word, such as playing games with your students, watching your students understand a difficult lesson, organizing events at church or youth events, coaching a sport, etc.)*
4. Teachers and pastors have a passion for their jobs because they know it is such important work. What makes their job so important? *They are sharing the good news of eternal life through Jesus with lots of people so that they can be in heaven with us too.*
5. If we were to pray for our pastors, teachers, and staff ministers right now, what would we say? (Write the phrases the students supply on the board.) *Open for student answers.*

**Activity: Picture Yourself**

1. Hand out the Lesson 4 activity.
2. Ask students to circle one of the three called worker options: teacher, pastor (boys only), or staff minister.
3. Ask them to look at all the different things that called workers can do! Have them circle some that they think they would enjoy. If they want to write in additional ones, they can!
4. Finally, have them draw pictures of themselves being a called worker and doing one of those things.
5. When everyone has finished, hang them up in the classroom for everyone to see throughout the week, or allow each child to share their picture with the class!

**Optional Hymn Verse: Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly (CW 748:3)**