

GOD'S ORCHESTRA

The story is an allegory about God's plans for mankind; namely,

- ✓ *God wants to share his joy and happiness with all men and women for eternity.*
- ✓ *Each person - man or woman – has a unique role to play in the plan of God.*
- ✓ *Some persons played their roles or vocations, other did not.*

The Allegory

There was a wonderful melody which God himself had composed from eternity. It was the most beautiful and captivating of melodies, one that no man could dream of listening to.

One day, God said to himself: "I want to build an orchestra to play my tune in a harmony of the most enchanting music. I want all men and women to play in my orchestra. Yes, I'll prepare for them all sorts of sweet melodious instruments, yes, a unique instrument for each man suited to his unique abilities. Thus, one and all will create with them the most wonderful symphony ever."

And with that, God started designing all sorts of musical instruments. First he made a violin. When he tried it, the sweetest silvery notes flew out of it. It was very good!

Then God made an electronic organ. He tested it. It was very good, indeed! And then, he made a guitar. When he thrummed it, he was delighted. It was very good'.

Then God made some sets of drums to keep the beat, then a clarinet, and all were very good. God went on making more and newer instruments. When he tried them all he was delighted!

When God finished creating all the instruments, he said: "Now it's time for me to build up my orchestra. So God gave a violin to Mary of Nazareth and said to her: "I want you to play my tune along with me. Will you?" And she said: "Yes, my God, as you wish."

The harmony ensuing from the humming of God and the playing of the violin was truly superb!

Next, God gave the clarinet to a man called Joseph, a carpenter, and God said to him: "I wish that you play my tune along with me. Will you?" And he said: "Of course, Lord, as you will!"

Now, the music emanating from the clarinet was equally vibrant and wonderful!

Finally, God distributed all the instruments among all peoples of earth, and told them: "Now, let us play all together my eternal song of love, joy and peace, I will be the most wonderful symphony ever.

So, all men, God's orchestra, began playing along with God. And this is what came out of God's beautiful and most charming tune: A jarring din! A cacophonous sound! A raucous noise!

Personal Work

Two ways doing the personal work:

First:

Ask the participants to write a short essay on "My interpretation of the story of "God's Orchestra".

Explain what each detail of the story signifies: the tune, God's desire to play a symphony with all men and women, the instruments, Mary and Joseph, the final outcome, etc."

Note: To assistance you, we offer you here a short interpretation of the Allegory

- ✓ *God does not want us, men and women, to be "passive" recipients of his eternal kingdom of love and joy*
- ✓ *He wants us all to "actively" participate in building up his beautiful Kingdom – His beautiful tune.*
- ✓ *So in order to accomplish his plans, God created us as unique instruments.*
- ✓ *Each one of us, as individual persons, is different and capable of producing a unique and most exquisite music according to the talents and abilities given us by God.*
- ✓ *Each person, each instrument has a unique role or vocation to play in life – in God's symphony.*
- ✓ *Mary and Joseph and the saints played their instruments to the best of their abilities, they drew beautiful music from them and accomplish on earth what God had planned for them. They fulfilled their vocation.*
- ✓ *When all men and women together started playing their instruments, God's tune was spoiled because most people did not draw from their instruments the tune God expected them to draw.*
- ✓ *They did not do the will of God; they did not follow God's call and vocation.*

Second:

Ask the Participants to reply in writing to the following questions

What does "God's tune" stands for in the story?

Why did God want to build an orchestra?

Why did he wish that all men and women would form part of his orchestra?

What do those "unique instruments" God designed stand for?

Why the story keeps telling us that "each instrument" was very good?

Why did the violin and the clarinet sound so beautiful?

Why when God asked all the people of the earth to play their instruments, God's tune got spoiled?

If God's wish of playing a beautiful symphony with all of us has to be realized; what have we to do?

Group Work. Sharing and Discussion.

The participants will share their replies with the group.

Then, initiate a discussion. Encourage interaction

Input or Talk on Vocation

Meaning of the word “Vocation”

- The call of Jesus to follow Him is what we mean by the word “Vocation”. VOCATION’ can be taken in two senses:
 - In the generic sense, Vocation is The Universal Call or invitation God gives to one and all.” to follow Him – to join his orchestra -and proclaim the Good News to the world. We name it: “Christian Vocation” or Being a Christiana.
 - In the specific sense, is the call or invitation God gives to each Christian in particular to serve him in a particular way or state of life within his or her “Christian Vocation”. – namely, the particular instrument he should play in God’s orchestra - We name it “Particular Vocation” For instance, The Vocations to the Priesthood, to Marriage and to the Religious Life` are some of the possible particular calls or vocations

Vocation in the Scriptures

- We see in the Bible, both the Old and the New Testament that God seeks the co-operation of people to carry out his works and wonders, for instance, Abraham, Moses, the Patriarchs, Samuel, the Prophets, Our Lady, St. Joseph, the Apostles, St Paul, etc
- **Though God does not need us. He wants us!** He wants us to be his partners and co-operators in the work of salvation.
- **Some people**, who were called by God, listened to his call. They said **YES** to Him. E.g. Abraham, Samuel, our Lady, St. Joseph. St. Paul, Jesus’ Disciples, etc..
- **Some others, however, said NO to Him.** e.g. Absalom, Jeroboam, Judas, The Rich Young Man, the Tree Would-be Followers. Etc.
- Were it not for those generous persons who said ‘YES’ to God, the work of salvation would have not taken place.
- Unfortunately, how much good has remained undone because of lack of a generous response from many other persons!
- Think of the frightful state the world finds itself today!
- What a wonderful world would ours be, if everybody would say YES to Jesus! - *If everybody would play his instrument to the best of his abilities.*
- **Today, as in for former days, God keeps on calling on – you and me too -to do something wonderful for Him and for our brothers and sisters.**
- Have you ever thought what for God is calling you for? What does God want you to do in life for others? - *What instrument He wants you to play? –*
- Surely, with His help, He wants you to work wonders in our days? *To play the most delightful music ever.*
- **What will your response be? “Yes” or “No “?**

Group Work: Role Plays on New Testament People

- ✓ Divide the participants into groups. Each group should not be bigger than 6 nor small than 4.
- ✓ Assign to each group one of the New Testament passages quoted below, of people who were called by God to follow different calls or vocations
- ✓ Some said “Yes to God, others said “No” Make sure that the passages assigned to the groups belong to both types of people. “Yes people” and “No people”.
- ✓ Based on the passage allotted to the groups, they will prepare an activity in which the main ideas explained in the input or instruction above will be exemplified
- ✓ The activity can be an act, a role-play, a mime, a radio play, or any other.
- ✓ The presentation should be done in a modern setting and in circumstances familiar to the participants.
- ✓ Give them reasonable time to complete their work.

Suggested Texts

Some said “YES” :

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| 1. Mary. | Lk. 1/26-38. | Annunciation. |
| 2. Joseph | Mt. 1/18-24. | The Angel in a dream |
| 3. Mathew. | Mt. 9/9-13. | The Call of Mathew. |
| 4. St. Paul. | Acts 9/1-19 | His vocation. |
| 5. Christ. | Mt.26/36-44 | Agony in the Garden. |
| 6. The First Disciples. | Lk. 5/1-11. | “ I’ll make you fishers of me |

Some said “NO”.

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| 1. The Rich Young Man. | Mk. 10/17-2 |
| 2. The Would-Be Followers | Mt. 8/18- |
| 3. Some disciples fall away from Jesus. | Jn. 6/60-67. |
| 4. Scribes and Pharisees. | Jn. 10/22-39. |
| 5. Judas. | Lk. 22/3-6. |

Presentation of the Activities

- ✓ The small groups in turn, will present their activities to the house.
- ✓ Each presentation will be followed by a sort discussion and evaluation
- ✓ At the end of the presentations the Moderator will offer the house his comments.

Closing Shared Group Prayer

- ✓ The subject mater for the prayer may be the N.T. texts mentioned above..
- ✓ The Vocational Hymns hinted below could be profusely used.
 1. I’ll say Yes, Yes, Yes.
 2. Walking with the Lord.
 3. Follow Christ
 4. Just a Closer Walk.
 5. Send Forth your Messengers
 6. Come Follow Me.
 7. It Takes Courage to Answer A Call.
 8. I Decided To Follow Jesus

