

Define a Vision For your Kids

Headline: Greek mythology is steeped with something known as the “hero journey”. They typically have a narrative pattern as follows as described by Joseph Campbell in his book *A Hero with a Thousand Faces*:

- A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered, and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.

However, when first called to this journey, the hero usually shrinks from the challenge... until a guide appears. The guide helps them to see in themselves that **their** journey is exactly what they were created for.

Sounds like what happened at Pentecost to me!

Objective: As the appointed “guides” for our children, how do we help them determine/discover the journey that is meant for only them and encourage/inspire them to step into their journey so that in the end they may strengthen others?

How do we help them discover what they were made for?

Song Suggestion: Be Thou My Vision

Bible and Catechism Readings:

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

John 14

Jesus Comforts His Disciples (Jn 14:1-4)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father (Jn 14:5-14)

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the

Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-31)

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.

Catechism 2222

Parents must regard their children as *children of God* and respect them as *human persons*. Showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God’s law.

Catechism 1704

The human person participates in the light and power of the divine Spirit. By his reason, he is capable of understanding the order of things established by the Creator. By free will, he is capable of directing himself toward his true good. He finds his perfection "in seeking and loving what is true and good."

Saint: St. Ambrose- Hero guide to one of the great Doctors of the Church- St. Augustine

Vignette: – Ken had just seen the summer blockbuster “Barbie” with his wife and daughter. The movie’s theme song is titled “What Was I Made For?”. While listening to the lyrics, he peered over at his daughter, her eyes met his and, in that moment, he wondered...“Does she know what she was made for?” “Is she wondering the same thing?”

Crestfallen, he knew in his own heart that he had done very little to help her discover what she was/is made for. He thought to himself, “Am I failing her?”

Inspired, he realized that he needed to learn how to become her guide. Someone there to encourage her to become who God, not the world, created her to be.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

Would you rather have your child know “WHO they are” or WHO’S they are”? Why?

What role can discovering their spiritual gift play in your child’s vision for themselves?

A sailboat without a keel tips over in high winds. It is below the water line where no one can see it. How are you helping your child construct their own keel?

What story from your own life and the fruits it bore can you share that would help inspire your child to go on their own journey?

What’s in it for them to embark on the hero’s journey?

Resources:

The Hero with a Thousand Faces- Joseph Campbell 1949
Strengths Finder for Kids

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