

# When I Grow Up

By Julie Filby



Spend time together discussing what you'd like to be when you grow up—or in the years to come—and why. Both children and adults can share what they're passionate about and highlight their God-given gifts.

## For

Young Family

## Season

Spring, perhaps around May 1, the feast day of St. Joseph the worker

## Activity Plan

1. Gather in a comfortable space and say this prayer aloud to begin:

*O God, keep our hearts and minds open to your plans for our lives. Help us use the skills and talents you've given us, so that everything we do brings greater glory and honor to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

2. Invite family members to take turns saying what they want to be when they grow up—or in the years to come—and why. Be sure to listen carefully to what each person says. And be sure to include adults in the conversation; a person may not be in his or her "dream job" today and may have dreams of being a nurse or a pilot or a missionary. While it's true that some of the dreams revealed may not be feasible, the discussion may still inspire adults to take those art classes they've always wanted to take or prompt a first-grader to sign up for a basketball camp.
3. Take time to identify some of the gifts (skills, talents, abilities) that God has given to each family member to use each day. How might these gifts shape plans and dreams for the future?
  - Who is good at science, math, cooking, organizing, cleaning?
  - Who can sing or play an instrument?
  - Who is caring? Who is a good listener? Who can give wise advice?
  - Who loves to be outdoors? Who can swim or throw a ball?
  - Who can build things? Who understands how motors work? Who is good at solving puzzles?
4. Consider what practical activities, training, or education might help you achieve your dreams:
5. Plan to repeat this "When I Grow Up" conversation from time to time because interests change and different God-given gifts are revealed and realized. Plus, it's fun to use your imaginations and dream. Parents can help set an example for children as they pursue goals and are flexible in their goals. Affirm how many kinds of work and professions are significant and valuable.

