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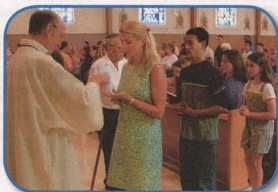
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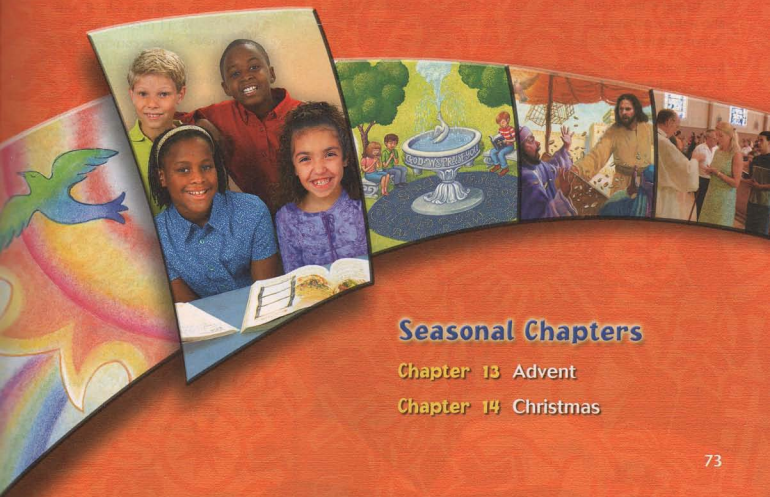
- During the season of Easter, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

John 21:1–14; Acts of the Apostles 1:3–12; 2:1–4

The Commandments Help Us to Love God

unit 2

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**In Unit 2 your child will grow as a disciple of Jesus by:**

- showing love for God and others by following the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment
- believing in the one true God, and loving him more than anything
- respecting God's name, and honoring sacred places
- keeping the Lord's Day holy by participating in Mass, relaxing, and caring for others' needs
- learning the ways to participate more fully at Mass, and to live as Jesus' disciples when we are sent forth from Mass.

What's the Word?

In Chapter 8 the children review the Ten Commandments, and also Jesus' teaching of the Great Commandment, and the new commandment which Jesus gave us at the Last Supper.

Read about Jesus giving the Great Commandment on page 78, or in your Bible (Matthew 22:34–40). Discuss why Jesus would say to the young man that this is the greatest commandment. Then read the new commandment on page 78 or in your Bible (John 13:34–35). Decide on one way you can live the new commandment this week.

Celebrate!

Prepare for the coming Sunday to be the Lord's Day in a special way. Look over the Sunday Scripture readings together, and talk about the ways you will participate in Mass. (See "This Week's Liturgy" on www.webelieveweb.com.) What Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy (pages 102–103) might you do on Sunday to show that your family cares for people in need?

**Reality Check**

"The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2205)

Fast Facts

One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to visit the imprisoned. Many diocesan Catholic Charities offices or Peace and Justice Offices train volunteers to visit those who are imprisoned. These volunteers provide Bibles and opportunities to learn the faith and to pray. Say a prayer together that all those who are imprisoned will place their love and trust in God.

Question Corner

Chapters 9, 10, and 11 present the first three commandments. Talk about these commandments together. (See the chart on page 77.) How can each commandment make us happy? Which commandment is most challenging to our world today?

Take Home**Be ready for this unit's Take Home:**

Chapter 8: Living out the Great Commandment

Chapter 9: Praying the Angelus

Chapter 10: Making a banner

Chapter 11: Getting ready for Mass

Chapter 12: Visiting the Most Blessed Sacrament

Learning About God's Law

8

WE GATHER


✚ Leader: Let us listen to a reading
from the Book of Psalms.

Reader: "LORD, teach me the way
of your laws;
I shall observe them
with care.
Give me insight to
observe your teaching,
to keep it with all my heart.
Lead me in the path of
your commands,
for that is my delight."
(Psalm 119:33-35)

All: "LORD, teach me the way
of your laws." (Psalm 119:33)

Leader: Let us pray.
Father, we want to respect your
laws. Help us to love you and our
neighbors. We ask this in the name
of Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

 Think of a time when someone
asked you to follow some instructions.
Why was it important to do as you
were asked?



WE BELIEVE

God calls his people.

In the Old Testament we learn about the relationship between God and his people. We read the history of God's people in the time before the birth of Jesus.

The people whom God chose as his own were called the Israelites. God showed his great love for them, and they showed their love for God. They called on God for help and guidance. They gave praise to God's name. God remembered his people and heard them. He cared for and protected them.

God's people were living in the area of the Middle East that is now the country called Israel. However, in the time of the Old Testament, this land was called Canaan. Once a great famine forced God's people to leave their homes in Canaan. They went to Egypt to find food. They stayed in Egypt, but they later lost their freedom there. God's people became slaves. They were forced to work for the pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. God wanted his people to be free to love and worship him. So God chose Moses to lead the people out of Egypt to freedom.



With Moses to lead them and God guiding their way, the people left Egypt. They were heading back to Canaan, the land God had promised them.



God guided Moses and his people. Write ways God guides us today.



Exodus 3:7-10

God told Moses that he had seen the way his people were suffering in Egypt. God said, "Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Then God said to Moses, "Come, now! I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:7, 8, 10).

The Ten Commandments are God's Laws for his people.

In the desert between Egypt and Canaan, the Israelites came to Mount Sinai. God asked Moses to climb the mountain. There God made a special agreement with Moses and the people. God promised to be their God if they would be his people. This special agreement between God and his people is called a **covenant**.



In this covenant God promised to protect his people and to help them live in freedom. In return the Israelites promised to live as God wanted them to live. They promised to worship him, the one true God.

God gave Moses and his people the Ten Commandments. The **Ten Commandments** are the Laws of God's covenant given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Israelites, later known as the Jewish People, followed these Laws. The Ten Commandments are God's Laws for us, too. We find them in the Old Testament.

God gave us the Ten Commandments so we can know how to live a life of love. The first three commandments help us to show love and respect for God. The other seven commandments help us to show love and respect for ourselves and others.



With a partner discuss ways to show respect for God and others.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD: YOU SHALL NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.
2. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN.
3. REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY THE LORD'S DAY.
4. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.
5. YOU SHALL NOT KILL.
6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
7. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.
8. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.
9. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.
10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.



covenant (p. 259)

Ten Commandments (p. 261)

Jesus teaches us about God's Law.

God loved his people so much that he never turned away from them. When he saw his people failing, God sent prophets to remind them to keep the covenant. The prophets told the people about God's love for them. They encouraged the people to trust in God and have faith in him. They reminded the people that God had promised to save them from sin.

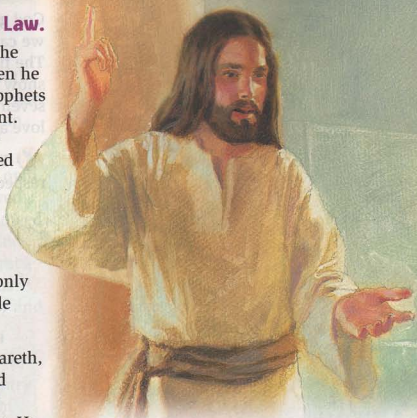
God kept his promise. He sent his only Son into the world to save all people from sin. Jesus is the Son of God.

When Jesus was growing up in Nazareth, he studied the teachings of the Old Testament. He learned about the covenant God made with his people. He followed the Ten Commandments. He lived his life according to the covenant.

One day someone asked Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" We call Jesus' answer the Great Commandment. Jesus said to the man, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:36, 37). This is the first part of the Great Commandment. It sums up the first three of the Ten Commandments.

Jesus also told the man, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). This part of the Great Commandment sums up the Fourth through Tenth Commandments.

Jesus himself lived out the Great Commandment. He showed us that keeping the Ten Commandments means loving God above all else and loving others as ourselves.



Who are some people today who encourage us to trust in God and have faith in him?

Jesus teaches us to love one another.

On the night before he died, Jesus told his disciples, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

Loving one another as Jesus did helps us to follow the Ten Commandments. Jesus was a perfect example of love for God and neighbor. He showed his love in many ways. He listened to those who were lonely. He went out of his way to help people in need. He spoke out for the freedom of all people and for those who were treated unjustly. He respected the dignity of each person.

We are called to respect the human dignity of all people. All people are created by God to share in his life and love. Each and every person has the same basic rights. We call the basic rights that all people have **human rights**.

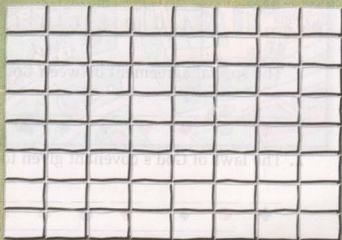
These rights include the

- right to life. This the most basic of all human rights.
- right to faith and family
- right to education and work
- right to equal treatment and safety
- right to housing and health care.

WE RESPOND



With a partner, discuss the ways you can respect the rights of others as Jesus did. Talk about ways that we can follow Jesus' example of love for God and others. Then make a Word Find using those ways. Exchange your puzzle with another group and have them find and circle the words.



human rights (p. 260)

As Catholics...

God sent many prophets to his people. One of the greatest of these was Isaiah. Isaiah told the people that God would never abandon them, that God would send them a Savior. Jesus is the Savior Isaiah told the people about.

Every year during Advent and Christmas, we hear the words of Isaiah: "For a child is born to us, a son is given us" (Isaiah 9:5). Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior.



PROJECT

Show What *you* Know

To find the **Key Words** to complete each sentence, use the code below. Fill in the letter that matches each symbol.

A	C	D	E	G	H	I	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	V

1. The special agreement between God and his people is called a

2. The laws of God's covenant given to Moses on Mount Sinai are the

3. The basic rights that all people have are

Fast Facts

The covenant that God made with Moses is still honored and lived today by the Jewish People. The Ten Commandments are part of what is called The Torah, which in Hebrew means, "The Law." The scrolls on which the law is written have a place of honor in every synagogue.



Pray Today

*Holy Spirit, help me to live
by the Ten Commandments.
Help me to*

DISCIPLE

Pray
Learn
Celebrate
Share
Choose
Live

Make it Happen

God calls us to respect everyone's human rights. Choose one of the human rights listed below.

- right to life
- right to faith and family
- right to education and work
- right to equal treatment and safety
- right to housing and health care



Make a plan to promote this right in your school and neighborhood this week.

What's the Word?

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

(Matthew 22:37) *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:39)

- Circle the phrases that answer: Who shall we love?
- Underline the phrases that tell how you should love God.

Take Home

Discuss with your family ways to live the Great Commandment. Write one way your family will love God and others this week.

CHAPTER TEST

Circle the correct answer.

- In the Old Testament we learn about the relationship between God and _____.
the Apostles Jesus the Israelites
- A covenant is a special _____ between God and his people.
agreement prayer vision
- Jesus taught us to love God above all else and to _____ our neighbors as ourselves.
fear love trust
- The most basic of all human rights is the right to _____.
faith equal treatment life

Write True or False for the following sentences. Then change the false sentences to make them true.

- _____ The Ten Commandments help us to live a life of love.

- _____ The Great Commandment sums up the Ten Commandments.

- _____ Following the first three commandments helps us to love our neighbors.

- _____ God gave the Ten Commandments to Jesus on Mount Sinai.

Answer the following.

- Write one way the prophets helped the Israelites.

- Write one way Jesus showed people his love.

UNIT TEST

Choose a word from the box to complete each sentence.

1. Jesus lived his life according to the _____ God made with his people.
2. To take God's name in _____ is to use it in a disrespectful or unnecessary way.
3. To give God thanks and praise is to _____ him.
4. It is an act of _____ to put someone or something before God.
5. When we show honor, love, and respect to God, we are showing him _____.
6. To _____ something or someone is to dedicate that thing or that person to God.
7. Feeding the hungry and caring for the sick are _____ Works of Mercy.
8. Comforting the suffering and forgiving those who hurt us are _____ Works of Mercy.
9. The celebration of the _____ is the most important way we keep the Lord's Day.
10. On the Lord's Day we gather to celebrate that _____ died and rose to save us.

bless

Jesus

Corporal

vain

Eucharist

idolatry

covenant

reverence

Spiritual

worship

Write the letter of the Scripture verse that matches each of the following.

11. _____ the Shema

a. "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

12. _____ the Great Commandment

b. "I, the LORD, am your God. . . . You shall not have other gods besides me." (Exodus 20:2, 3)

13. _____ the New Commandment

c. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39)

14. _____ the First Commandment

d. "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone!" (Deuteronomy 6:4)

15. _____ the Second Commandment

e. "Remember to keep holy the sabbath day." (Exodus 20:8)

16. _____ the Third Commandment

f. "You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain." (Exodus 20:7)

Write your answers to the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

17–18. God calls us to respect the human dignity of all people. What can a fourth grader do to show respect for basic human rights?

19–20. What are some ways you can keep Sunday holy?