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We Follow Jesus

*God of love,
send us the Holy Spirit
to help us follow your word.*





Sharing Together

In the opening prayer we carried the Bible in procession. We gathered together and showed reverence for God's word. What was it like for you to show reverence for the word of God?

How do you show reverence at other times?

As Catholics we show reverence for the Bible, or Sacred Scripture. This means we show our love and respect for the word of God. Give one example of how we show reverence for Sacred Scripture.

The Great Commandment

Sacred Scripture is the holy word of God. Read this Bible story. Discover what Jesus taught about showing our reverence for God, ourselves, and other people.

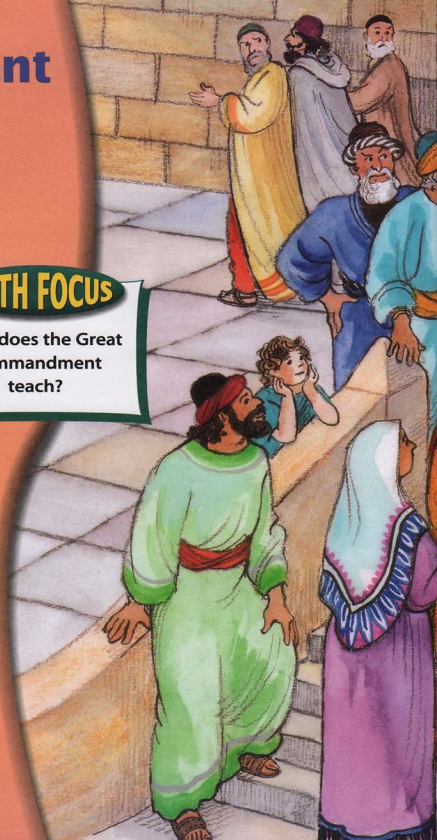
There was a man who taught people about the commandments. He asked Jesus this question. “Teacher, what is the most important commandment?”

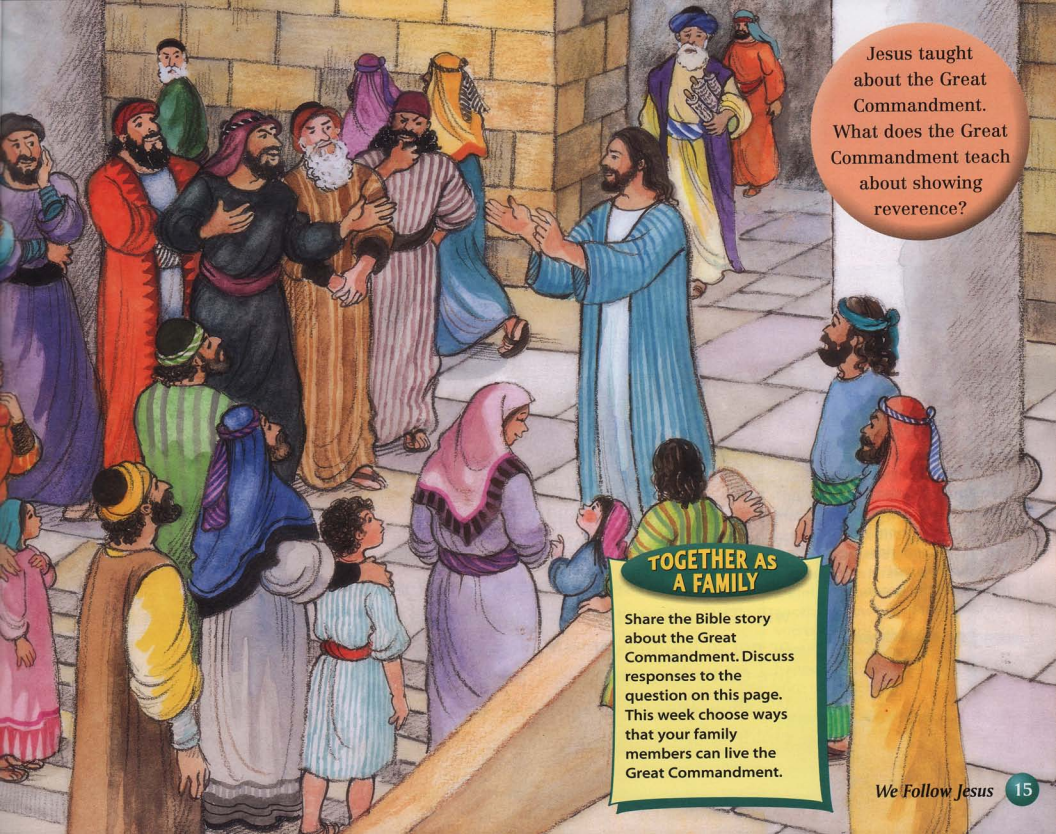
Jesus answered, “ ‘Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. The second commandment is like the first. ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’ ”

BASED ON MATTHEW 22:34–40

FAITH FOCUS

What does the Great Commandment teach?





Jesus taught about the Great Commandment. What does the Great Commandment teach about showing reverence?

TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Share the Bible story about the Great Commandment. Discuss responses to the question on this page. This week choose ways that your family members can live the Great Commandment.

Living a Holy Life

FAITH FOCUS

What is the sacrament of Reconciliation?

WHAT WE SEE AND HEAR

The crucifix reminds us that Jesus' dying on the cross shows his love for his Father and for us. We see the crucifix in our church. We also see the crucifix in the reconciliation room. The crucifix reminds us of the way that Jesus lived the Great Commandment.

The Great Commandment tells us that we are to love and respect God, ourselves, and all people. We do what the Great Commandment tells us when we live the Ten Commandments. The first three commandments help us to love and respect God. The last seven commandments help us to love and respect ourselves and others.

God gives every person the gift of a conscience to help us know the commandments. Our conscience helps us to know what is right and what is wrong. It helps us to know what God wants us to do and not to do.

God also gives every person the gift of a free will. This means that we can choose to live or not to live the commandments. When we live God's commandments, we live a holy life. We show that we belong to God. We are children of God.



Jesus gave us the sacraments. The sacraments make us sharers in God's own life. We receive the grace to grow as children of God and live a holy life.

Penance is one of the sacraments. This sacrament is also called by other names. It is called the sacrament of Reconciliation. We can celebrate this sacrament together with other members of our church family and the priest. Or we can celebrate it individually with the priest.

We celebrate this sacrament for the first time before we receive First Communion. In this sacrament we are forgiven the sins that we commit after we are baptized. We sin when we freely choose to do what we know is against what God wants us to do. We also sin when we choose not to do something we know God wants us to do. Every sin hurts our friendship with God and with other people.



TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Share responses to the question on this page. This week choose ways that your family members can better live the Great Commandment. For example: If family members hurt one another, show how much you truly care for one another. Talk about what happened and reconcile with one another.

What Difference Does This Make in My Life?

Jesus gave us the sacrament of Reconciliation.
When we celebrate this sacrament, we are made
friends again with God and with one another. We
receive the grace to live the Great Commandment.

MY FAITH CHOICE

Talk with someone about
one thing that you will do
this week to live the Great
Commandment.



Name someone who is living the Great Commandment.

Tell what the person is doing that makes a difference.

Tell how you can live the Great Commandment.

Tell how that will help you make a difference.



Remembering Together

In this chapter your child learned about the Great Commandment. The Great Commandment teaches that we are to live a holy life. We are to love God with our whole heart and soul, and we are to love others as we love ourselves (see Matthew 22:34–40). In the sacrament of Reconciliation we receive God's forgiveness for our choosing not to live the Great Commandment. Talk with your child about living the Great Commandment. Use these or similar questions:

- How does our family help one another live the Great Commandment?
- Who are models for living the Great Commandment?
- How do we show we are sorry when we do not live the Great Commandment?
- How does our conscience help us to live the Great Commandment?

Sharing Together

Choose one of these activities to do together or design a similar activity of your own:

- Watch a favorite TV show together. Afterward discuss how the people in the show are living the Great Commandment.
- Have each family member write on an index card how your family can live the Great Commandment. Choose one thing that you will do together.



- Talk about ways your family can resolve to settle conflicts peacefully.



Visit the RCL Benziger sacraments web site by following the link titled "Sacraments" at www.FaithFirst.com.

Praying Together

Pray this or a similar prayer at family meals or at other family prayer times this week:

God, our loving Father,
you gave us the Great Commandment.
Send us the Holy Spirit
to help us live the Great Commandment every day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Getting Ready Together

This is an appropriate time to briefly review the parts of the rites of Reconciliation with your child. Go through the rite of Reconciliation that your son or daughter will celebrate. "The Individual Rite for Reconciliation" and "The Communal Rite for Reconciliation" are found on pages 52–63 of this book.