

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	2
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Welcome to Faith First Junior High!	5–18
• The Spiral Learning Method • Features of the Student Book • Building Religious Literacy	
• Features of the Catechist Guide • Teaching Has Never Been Easier • Faith First Supplements	
• Junior High • FaithFirst.com	

QuickStart for Catechists: An Interactive Workshop	19–37
• What Is a Catechist? • What Is My Task? • Teaching Others to Pray • The Faith First Approach • Scope and Sequence • Who Are My Students? • How Do Children Learn?	
• What Is a Good Climate for Catechesis? • Resource Bibliography	

UNIT ONE: Life in Christ

Chapter 1 Human Dignity and Happiness	46
Chapter 2 One Person's Decision	60
<i>A Scripture Story</i>	
Chapter 3 The Decision to Live Our Life in Christ	74
Chapter 4 Hymn of Love	88
<i>A Scripture Story</i>	
Chapter 5 The Exercise of Virtue	102
Chapter 6 The Grace of the Holy Spirit	116

UNIT TWO: The Ten Commandments

Chapter 7 The First, Second, and Third Commandments	134
Chapter 8 Martha and Mary	148
<i>A Scripture Story</i>	
Chapter 9 The Fourth and Fifth Commandments	162
Chapter 10 The Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Commandments	176
Chapter 11 The Eighth and Tenth Commandments	190
Chapter 12 The Lord's Prayer	204
Catholic Prayers and Practices	220
Glossary	232
Index	235
Credits	238
Footnotes	238

Unit 2 Opener

The opener pages for each unit of the text are designed to assess, through a variety of questioning techniques, the young people's prior knowledge and understanding of the key faith concepts presented in this unit. Processing these pages should not take more than ten or fifteen minutes.

USING ILLUSTRATIONS

Pictures help stimulate the religious imagination. The first opener page contains three pictures that illustrate key faith concepts presented in this unit of the text.

- Have the young people look at and think about the pictures to gain insight into the mysteries of faith portrayed by the pictures.
- Invite volunteers to describe what each picture says to them about the faith of the Church.
- Ask several volunteers to share a response to the question at the bottom of the page.

UNIT TWO The Ten Commandments



What is at the heart
and center of the
Law of God?

71



Teaching Tip

Joined to Christ. Spend a few moments in prayerful reflection as you prepare for the teaching of Unit Two of *Morality: Life in Christ*. Recall that at Baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit who guides and help us live as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father. Pray to the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to kindle in your heart zeal for living the Gospel and to strengthen you with courage and wisdom to witness to the difference living the Gospel has made in your life—and the difference it will make for the students.

Getting Ready

The Law of God

What do you already know about the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes?

The Ten Commandments

The Beatitudes

Questions I Have

What questions do you have about the moral teachings of the Catholic Church?

Faith Vocabulary

Put an X next to the faith vocabulary terms that you know. Put a ? next to the faith vocabulary terms that you need to know more about.

- ___ Decalogue
- ___ reverence
- ___ idol
- ___ obedience
- ___ euthanasia
- ___ chastity
- ___ stewardship
- ___ reparation
- ___ covet
- ___ avarice
- ___ greed
- ___ temptation

A Scripture Story



Jesus in the home of Martha and Mary

What do you know about what happened when Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary?

GETTING READY

The second opener page invites the young people to reflect on key faith concepts presented in this unit of the text and to identify questions they wish to have answered.

The Law of God

Brainstorm brief answers to the question in the box labeled “The Law of God.” List the responses on the board.

Faith Vocabulary

This section is a quick assessment of the young people’s familiarity with some of the faith vocabulary used in this unit of the text. During the review at the end of this unit of the text the young people will be asked to return to this page and once again share their understanding of the words.

Questions I Have

This section encourages the young people to reflect on questions they have about the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Have the students write their questions and then invite volunteers to share. As you work through the text, always refer back to the chart and integrate the responses to the questions into your lessons.

A Scripture Story

This section provides an illustration of the Gospel story of Jesus in the home of Martha and Mary. Have the young people work with partners to discuss what they know about the story and then respond to the question.

Teaching Tip

Catholic Social Teachings. The basic themes of the social teachings of the Catholic Church are summarized on page 143 of the text. Review these principles prior to presenting the second part of the text. These teachings will provide concrete statements and ways we are to live the Commandments. *From the Ground Up* (Washington DC: NCEA, 1999) is a good resource for suggestions of ways to implement these themes.

The First, Second, and Third Commandments

CHAPTER BACKGROUND

Our Spiritual Exodus

The Ten Commandments, or Decalogue, are best understood in their original context, the context of the Exodus. The name *Exodus* is given to God's freeing of his people from slavery in Egypt and leading them to freedom and new life in the land he promised them.

The image of Exodus is also used to describe God's freeing us from the bondage of sin to new life in Christ. We enslave ourselves when we choose to act out of greed, selfishness, envy, or jealousy. We experience captivity when the sinful acts of social groups or unjust laws marginalize us and keep us from fully and freely participating in the life of the community. When we find ourselves living in such conditions, we cry out to God to free us from these or other forms of slavery and lead us to new life.

The Ten Commandments provide us with a path through life that ensures that we do not become slaves to sin and do not enslave other people. When we abide by the Commandments, we enjoy freedom. When we violate them, we create the conditions of living in captivity, slaves to the consequences of sin.



Love God with All Your Heart

The First Commandment might be subtitled "Getting Our Priorities Straight." This Commandment asks that we place God at the center of our lives—and that we accept no substitutes. We replace God with idols when we elevate our jobs, investments, pleasures, and even our vehicles above God. We move God to the periphery of our lives when we falsely worship, or make idols of, money, fame, success, security, and other created things. What results from these forms of idolatry, as we too well know, is a form of slavery.

The Second Commandment teaches that if God is our top priority, it is a contradiction to take his name in vain. In fact, by misusing God's name or the people or things we connect closely with God (i.e., Mary, the saints, the sacred places and objects we use in our worship

of God), we clearly demonstrate a disrespect that is indicative of the low standing that God really has on our list of priorities.

The Third Commandment focuses on keeping the Lord's Day holy. This Command-

ment celebrates the priority that God has in our lives, that he is the Creator, and we are his creatures. We gather as the People of God on the Lord's Day, which is Sunday for Christians, to bless and adore God, to give him thanks and praise—to worship him. We also set aside time on Sunday to rest and strengthen our relationship with God and with one another. Keeping the Lord's Day holy gives evidence to the priority in our lives that we give to God and to living in freedom as the children of God.

FOR REFLECTION

What evidence do my daily decisions give that I truly worship only God?

How can I clearly connect the virtues that are the foundation of the Ten Commandments so the young people can see the positive values underlying each of the Ten Commandments?

Catechist to Catechist

Ten Commandments

Some years ago, a famous psychiatrist wrote a best-selling book titled *Whatever Became of Sin?* The book generated considerable discussion in church, family, and social gatherings. Similarly, we could begin this chapter by asking, "Whatever became of the Ten Commandments?" Over the years, the major emphasis placed on the Ten Commandments seems to have become overly negative. People tend to view the Ten Commandments as ways to avoid sin rather than ways to live a virtuous and holy life as children of God.

Seeing the Positive

As you teach this chapter, strive to bring out the positive teachings of the Ten Commandments with the young people. Stress that the Ten Commandments are positive guidelines for growing in faith and in the spiritual life.



The Church Teaches . . .

The *General Directory for Catechesis* states:

This 'Yes' to Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of the revelation of the Father, is twofold: a trustful abandonment to God and a loving assent to all that he has revealed to us. GDC 54

As your students study the First Commandment in this chapter, they will become aware that there is more to this Commandment than worshiping God. Putting God first means putting God before television, monetary gain, or anything else that might take the place of God.

See the Catechism . . .

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the First, Second, and Third Commandments, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2084–2132, 2142–2159, and 2168–2188.

CATECHIST PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are the fulfillment of the Law. Your life on earth taught me to live your commandments. Send the Holy Spirit to help me do what is right and work for the coming of the kingdom with courage and truth and justice. Amen.

LESSON PLANNER

FOCUS To understand how God tells us the way he wants us to live

Engage

Page 73

Focus

To help the young people recall the Scripture story of Moses and the Ten Commandments

Pray Together

Discussion

How do the Ten Commandments give direction to our journey through life on earth?

Teach and Apply

Pages 74–78

Focus

To discover that the Ten Commandments summarize the Law of God that is written on every human heart and to realize that the first three Commandments form the foundation of our life with God

Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

Scripture

- Deuteronomy 30:19
- Matthew 5:17, 19
- Romans 13:10
- Ephesians 3:14, 16–19
- Exodus 20:7
- Philippians 2:9–11

Did you know?

- Statues, Icons, and Paintings
- Holy Days of Obligation

Faith Connection

- Prepare a list of rules that can help you live the Ten Commandments.
- Create an announcement proclaiming Sunday as the Lord's Day.

Connect

Pages 79–81

Focus

To identify the precepts of the Church as practical ways to live our relationship with God and to explain the importance of identifying and rejecting idols, or false gods

Our Church Makes a Difference

The precepts of the Church guide us in worshipping God and showing our reverence for him in all we say and do.

What Difference Does Faith Make?

Learn about the possible “false gods” in our lives.

Activity

Discuss the scenarios in small groups.

Faith Decision

Decide how you will put God first in your life this week.

Materials

pens or pencils

Enriching the Session

Blackline Masters

Activities and Assessment Tools booklet:
Chapter 7
Called to Prayer and Liturgical Lessons:
Junior High
Use appropriate liturgical year and prayer pages.

Enriching the Lesson (CG page 147)

Grading the Media
Thinking Positively Positive
Putting God First

Music Connection (CG page 147)

www.FaithFirst.com



We update the Faith First Web site weekly. Check each week for new content and features. Here are some places to begin:

Catechists and Teachers

- Current Events
- Chapter Downloads
- Catechist Prayer

Faith First for Families

- Bible Stories
- Family Prayer
- Make a Difference

Teen Center

- Faith First Activities
- Chapter Reviews
- Game Alley

Don't Forget! You can make lesson planning a breeze—check out the **Online Lesson Planner**.

Pray

Page 82

Prayer Form

Prayer of blessing and adoration

Prayer

Pray “The Divine Praises” together.

Review

- Use the review to reinforce the main concepts of the lesson.
- Point out the “Family Discussion” question and encourage the students to share it with their families this week.

The First, Second, and Third Commandments

7

FAITH FOCUS

How does God tell us how he wants us to live?

FAITH VOCABULARY

Decalogue	precepts
idols	reverence

Describe an experience of trying to find your way without clear directions to a place you had never been before.

Imagine a highway system with no road signs. Then imagine traveling across the country without a map. It might take a very long time to find your way from Maine to California!

During their wandering in the desert during the Exodus, things were not going well for the Israelites. Their journey to a life of freedom in the land God promised to them seemed to be going nowhere. Moses went up Mount Sinai, and God gave him the Israelites the Ten Commandments.

How do the Ten Commandments give direction to our journey through life on earth?

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live."

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

73

ENGAGE

PRAY

- Gather the group for prayer.
- Remind them that God is present in each one of us.
- Begin by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- Together proclaim Deuteronomy 30:19.

FAITH FOCUS

Read aloud the "Faith Focus" question and invite brief responses. Explain to the young people that in this chapter they will learn how the First, Second, and Third Commandments guide us in living our relationship with God.

DISCOVER

Assess the young people's prior knowledge and understanding of the Ten Commandments.

- Write the "Faith Vocabulary" terms on the board. Ask the young people to share what they already know about these terms. Write key words and phrases from their responses next to the terms on the board.
- Read the opening paragraph to the young people.
- Invite members of the group to describe experiences of trying to find their way without directions.
- Ask volunteers to share how the Ten Commandments give direction to our life on earth.

Background: Doctrine

Making Moral Decisions. The Ten Commandments present basic moral truths that guide us in making moral decisions that enable all people to live as children of God. In observing the Ten Commandments we are expressing our love and respect for God, for ourselves, for others, and for all creation as revealed to us by God. Help the young people discover and value this truth. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2052–2074.)

TEACH

FOCUS

Remind the young people that the Ten Commandments are laws written on our hearts and revealed by God out of love to provide direction for our lives. Explain to them that these pages will help them further explore the Ten Commandments.

DISCOVER

- Ask volunteers to read aloud page 74. Have the young people listen to describe the connection between the natural law and the Ten Commandments.
- Have volunteers share some of the laws written on every human heart and how the Ten Commandments give a clearer picture of those laws.
- Ask the young people to read “Jesus and the Law” silently and highlight the main ideas of the section.
- Discuss with the young people the key phrases they highlighted.

Choose God, Choose Life



The Gift of the Law of God

The Ten Commandments are also called the **Decalogue**, which means “ten words.” They are God’s gift to the Israelites and to all people. The Decalogue states the foundation of our life with God and with one another. In this sense the Ten Commandments are the traditional and time-tested measure of our character as human beings. They state **precepts** that all people have a serious obligation to obey.

The Law of the Human Heart

The Ten Commandments summarize the Law of God written on every human heart. This law is called the **natural law**. It is the foundation of all human laws, moral and civil. The Ten Commandments revealed by God give us a clearer picture of that law.

1. I am the **Loxo** your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the **Loxo** your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the **Loxo’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.

Describe the connection between the natural law and the Ten Commandments.

Affirm appropriate responses.



Teaching Tip

Social Teachings of the Catholic Church. The Law of God truly sets us free. Basing our decisions on the Law of God establishes justice and peace, creates communities that treat one another with respect, and acknowledges the dignity of every member of the community. Following God’s Law maintains family order and harmony. Take the time to reflect on “Basic Principles of the Church’s Teaching on Social Justice” on page 143 of the student book and relate those principles to the teachings of this chapter and the next four chapters.

Jesus and the Law

The revelation of the Law on Mount Sinai prepared for the revelation of Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Word of God, became flesh, and fulfilled the revelation of the old Law. Jesus taught his disciples:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. . . . [W]hoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” *MATTHEW 5:17-19*

Jesus called people to return to the way of their hearts—to love God and other people with their whole heart (see Matthew 22:37–39). Paul the Apostle states it simply:

[L]ove is the fulfillment of the law. *ROMANS 13:10*

Jesus did not simply reveal the fulfillment of the Law. He also gave us the Holy Spirit to live the Law of God to its fullest. This New Testament prayer says it all:

I kneel before the Father . . . that he may grant you . . . to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, rooted and grounded in love, may . . . know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. *EPHESIANS 3:14, 16-19*

Compare the Law of God revealed to Moses with the revelation of Jesus.



FAITH CONNECTION

Work with a group. Prepare a list of key rules that can help you live the Ten Commandments as Jesus taught. Then number your rules in order of their importance.

Affirm appropriate responses.

75

REINFORCE

Ask the group to compare the Law of God revealed to Moses with the fulfillment of that Law in Jesus.

INTEGRATE

- Have the young people work in groups to do the “Faith Connection” activity.
- Have a volunteer from each group write the group’s rules on the board.
- Combine both lists into one list and have the group work toward prioritizing the rules in the combined list.

Background: Catholic Tradition

The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. At the Last Supper Jesus taught, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). How exactly do we follow Jesus, who is “the way” to the Father, to life? Practicing the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556) is one way, or method, that Christians widely use to build a closer union with God. First, we strengthen our desire and commitment to obey the Law of God in all things. Second, we strengthen our desire and commitment to avoid all sin. Third, we increase our desire and commitment to be with Christ, for Christ, and like Christ in all things.

FOCUS

Remind the young people that the Ten Commandments give us a clearer picture of natural law. Explain to the group that these pages will help them further understand the First and Second Commandments.

DISCOVER

- Together read aloud the words of the First Commandment.
- Ask volunteers to read “The First Commandment” to the group and have everyone listen for the ways the First Commandment is violated.
- Ask a volunteer to share the heart and center of the First Commandment.
- Have the young people give specific examples of atheism, idolatry, sacrilege, superstition, divination, magic, and simony.
- Have the young people silently read “The Second Commandment” and highlight the main ideas.
- Discuss with the young people the responsibility of showing reverence for God’s name.

The First Commandment
I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me. *Exodus 20:2-3*

The First Commandment commands us to set our priorities straight. Our first priority in life is to acknowledge this truth: that God is God and that we are not. We are to believe in God, hope in God, and love God above all creatures.

The First Commandment is fairly straightforward: Put God first and worship him alone. In this day and age, the First Commandment is violated in many ways.

Atheism. Atheism is the rejection or denial of the existence of God.

Idolatry. Idolatry is worshipping idols, or false gods. An idol is anything that takes the place of God in our life. It is something that takes over our life.

Sacrilege. Sacrilege consists of mistreating anyone or anything that is set aside, or consecrated, for worshipping God or helping people live as children of God.

Superstition, divination, and magic. Superstition, divination, and magic divert us from trusting in God’s loving providence by claiming “special powers” on our own.

Simony. Simony is the abuse of spiritual power for personal gain.

All these practices can undermine true religion and belief in God.

What is the heart and center of the First Commandment?

Affirm appropriate responses.

Spires of Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, New York City, New York

76



Teaching Tip

Keeping God First in Our Lives. Living our life in communion with God is the most important choice we can make. Everything about Jesus’ life on earth helps us understand the deepest meaning of the First Commandment. Distribute Bibles and have the young people search the four accounts of the Gospel for concrete examples of how Jesus put his Father first during his life on earth and how he asked us to do the same. Begin by pointing out Luke 12:22–24. After the young people have finished their search, have them discuss this question: How does following the example and teaching of Jesus help us keep God first in our lives?

Did you Know...

Statues, icons, and paintings in our churches help us worship God. Early in the history of the Church, a group of individuals called iconoclasts (image destroyers) started a campaign to destroy all sacred art representing God, Mary, angels, and saints. The Council of Nicaea, however, taught the reason why Christians use sacred images: "Whoever venerates an image venerates the person portrayed in it."

The Second Commandment

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
Exodus 20:7

Respecting a person's name is the same as respecting the person. The Israelites had the highest form of respect, or **reverence**, for God and the very name of God. So great was the Israelites' reverence for the name that God revealed to Moses that YHWH was not spoken aloud. Names such as "Lord" were substituted in place of YHWH.

Showing such reverence for God's name is showing reverence for God himself. For Christians reverence for the person and name of Jesus is the same.

God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:9-11

Speaking the name of God, Jesus, Mary, the saints, or holy things in an offensive way is an act of irreverence. We call such acts of irreverence *blasphemy*. We also dishonor the name of God when we commit perjury. Perjury is the taking of a false oath by calling on God, who is Truth, to be a witness to a lie.

How would you summarize the meaning of the First and Second Commandments in one sentence?

Affirm appropriate responses.

Jesus
Christ
Is
Lord



77

Teaching Tip

Becoming Aware. One of the tasks of a catechist is to develop in the young people a heightened awareness of reverence for the name of God. When questioned why they use God's name irreverently, young people will sometimes respond, "I am not being irreverent." Such insensitivity, in part, comes from their exposure to irreverence in the media. As a result, they do not connect their language with a respect for God. Have the young people think about TV programs and popular videos and analyze how different media use language about God.

REINFORCE

- Ask a volunteer to summarize the meaning of the First Commandment in one sentence. Have a second volunteer do the same for the Second Commandment.
- Read the "Did you know . . ." sidebar to the group and share the Church's practice of using icons, statues, and paintings.

INTEGRATE

Have the young people discuss the ways they can show reverence for God.

TEACH

FOCUS

Remind the group that the Ten Commandments give direction to our lives as Christians. Explain to them that this page will explore the Third Commandment.

DISCOVER

- Ask the young people why Sunday, or the Lord's Day, is the center of our week.
- After several responses have been given, have the young people silently read "The Third Commandment" and highlight the main ideas.
- Discuss with the group the importance of the Sunday Eucharist in the life of a Catholic.

APPLY

REINFORCE

Read the "Did you know . . ." sidebar to the group about the celebration of holy days of obligation.

INTEGRATE

- Have the young people work with a partner to do the "Faith Connection" activity.
- Have volunteers share the contents of their announcements.

Did you Know...

In the United States Catholics celebrate six holy days of obligation in addition to Sundays. They are Mary, Mother of God (January 1), Ascension of the Lord (the Thursday ten days before Pentecost, or the Sunday before Pentecost), the Assumption of Mary (August 15), All Saints' Day (November 1), Immaculate Conception of Mary (December 8), and Christmas (December 25).

The Third Commandment

Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day. BASED ON EXODUS 20:8

The Lord's Day is the day set aside to honor God. We keep the Lord's Day holy by acknowledging the primacy of our relationship with God. We worship God and re-create our proper relationship with God, with our family, with others, and with all creation. We use our time to make sure that no other demands prevent us from making the observance of the Lord's Day the center of our week. Every Christian also has the obligation to avoid making demands on others that prevent them from observing the Lord's Day.

For Christians Sunday is the Lord's Day. It commemorates Christ's Resurrection, which is the beginning of the new creation of all things in Christ. The Sunday Eucharistic liturgy is the heart of the Church's celebration of the Lord's Day. We join with Christ in unity with the Holy Spirit in praying the Church's great prayer of blessing and thanksgiving to God the Father and Creator. We remember and share in Christ's work of his re-creating all things new through the saving events of his Paschal Mystery. We receive the grace, the nourishment, and the strength to show our reverence for God in all our words and actions.

So vital is our joining with the whole Church in celebrating the Eucharist that the Church obliges us to participate in its celebration on Sundays and other holy days of obligation. We can no more do without the spiritual nourishment of hearing the word of God and sharing in the Eucharist on a regular basis than we can do without the physical nourishment of food and drink.



FAITH CONNECTION

Create and illustrate an announcement proclaiming Sunday as the Lord's Day. Write the words of your announcement in this space.

Affirm appropriate responses.

78



Background: Catholic Tradition

The Lord's Day. In May of 1998, Blessed Pope John Paul II issued the apostolic letter *On Keeping the Lord's Day Holy*. The concluding ideas of the letter focus on the singular importance of observing the Third Commandment. Blessed Pope John Paul II made these important points:

- Sunday is a synthesis of the Christian life and a condition for living the Christian life well.
- Sunday worship is not only an obligation but also a need that arises from the depths of Christian life.
- Sunday worship in a way becomes the soul of the other days of the week.
- Sunday worship is a school of charity, justice, and peace.

OUR CHURCH MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The Precepts of the Church

The Decalogue, or Ten Commandments, states the foundation of our life with God and with one another. The First, Second, and Third Commandments guide us in living our relationship with God.

The Church has given Catholics some practical ways to live out our relationship with God. These are called the precepts of the Church. The Catechism lists these precepts:

- You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
- You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
- You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
- You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

We also have the responsibility of providing for the material needs of the Church according to our ability.

The precepts of the Church guide us in worshipping God and showing our reverence for him in all we say and do. They guide us in acknowledging that God is God, in trusting and loving him above all creatures, and in placing all our hopes in him.

How do the precepts of the Church guide you in living the Ten Commandments?

Affirm appropriate responses.



Catechism of the
Catholic Church 2002-2003

CONNECT

HIGHLIGHT

Remind the group that the first three of the Ten Commandments guide all people in living their relationship with God and acknowledge that God alone is God and we are his creatures. The precepts of the Church help us live these three Commandments in specific ways.

DISCOVER

- Read aloud to the group “The Precepts of the Church.”
- Ask the group to listen for ways the precepts help us live out the First, Second, and Third Commandments.

INTEGRATE

- Have the group think about how they would respond to the question on page 79.
- Encourage everyone to put their responses into practice.



Background: Our Catholic Identity

Sharing of Spiritual Goods. When we think of sharing with people in need, we most often think about the physical needs of people, such as housing, food, shelter, and clothing, which are summarized in the Corporal Works of Mercy. The Catholic Church clearly teaches that we are to work for the just development and sharing of spiritual goods among people. Practicing the Spiritual Works of Mercy is one way we can implement this important social teaching of the Catholic Church.

HIGHLIGHT

Remind the group that the first three Commandments teach that we are to put and keep God first in our lives. Emphasize that God has created us out of love to know, love, and serve him—to give him glory in all we do and say.

DISCOVER

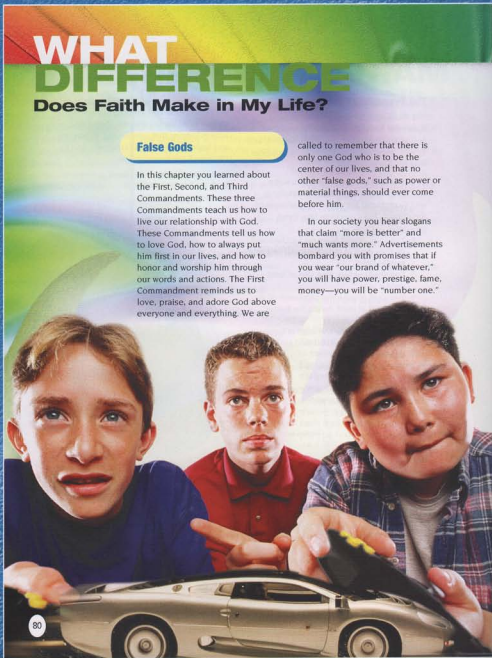
- Ask volunteers to read “False Gods” on pages 80 and 81 to the group.
- Have the young people name other false gods not named in the list on page 81.
- Invite the young people to look at the photos on the pages and discuss how they illustrate false gods. What other photos might they use?

REINFORCE

Build the “Did you know...” column to the group about the celebration of holy days of abstinence.

INTEGRATE

- Have the young people work with a partner to do the “Faith Connection” activity.
- Have volunteers share the new part of their announcements.



WHAT DIFFERENCE

Does Faith Make in My Life?

False Gods

In this chapter you learned about the First, Second, and Third Commandments. These three Commandments teach us how to live our relationship with God. These Commandments tell us how to love God, how to always put him first in our lives, and how to honor and worship him through our words and actions. The First Commandment reminds us to love, praise, and adore God above everyone and everything. We are

called to remember that there is only one God who is to be the center of our lives, and that no other “false gods,” such as power or material things, should ever come before him.

In our society you hear slogans that claim “more is better” and “much wants more.” Advertisements bombard you with promises that if you wear “our brand of whatever,” you will have power, prestige, fame, money—you will be “number one.”



Teaching Tip

Mass Media. Mass media advertising impacts everyone's life. Help the young people evaluate the mountain of information and images they see and hear every day. Discuss the need for the young people to think critically about what media presents to them as valuable. Have the young people discuss these or similar questions about advertising:

- What are the payoffs the product promises?
- How well are these products and payoffs in harmony with the values lived and taught by Jesus?

As a young person, what false gods are you encouraged to choose as number one in your life? When you are faced with a hard decision, how can you choose God, true values, and your religious beliefs over the following?

- money
- power
- video games
- sports
- sports heroes
- music stars
- music videos
- popularity
- sex
- designer clothes
- language
- beauty products
- models

How can you choose name-brand things, or choose to belong to a certain group, and not allow them to rule your life?

Faith Decision

Discuss with your small group one of the following scenarios.

- Your friends are going to a rock concert of your favorite group. Your parents have forbidden you to listen to this group because their lyrics and actions promote drugs, violence, and sexual activity. Your parents tell you that you cannot go to this concert. You want to fit in with your group. What do you do?
- Your favorite sports team is in the playoffs for the first time ever. The game will be broadcast at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. This is the only time you can have transportation for Mass. What will you do?

This week I will put God first in my life. I will

Affirm appropriate responses.

81

INTEGRATE

- Have the young people discuss one of the scenarios in "Faith Decision" on page 81.
- Invite volunteers to share their discussions.

CHOOSE

- Have the young people prayerfully reflect on what they have learned from this lesson about the First, Second, and Third Commandments and the many false idols that tempt them not to live by the Commandments. Then have them make and write their faith decision.
- Encourage the young people to put their faith decision into practice.

Teaching Tip

Teens and Music. Music is a part of life—especially for many young people. How can young people integrate music into their spirituality? Suggest that the young people evaluate from a Christian perspective the music they listen to. Invite them to ask and discuss these and similar questions: How does the music communicate joy? How does the music respect human dignity?

PRAY

- Gather the group for prayer.
- Divide the young people into two groups.
- Together pray "The Divine Praises."

REVIEW

- Have the young people look up the definitions of *Decalogue*, *precept*, *idol*, and *reverence* in the Glossary. Then ask volunteers to use the words in sentences. If necessary, have other volunteers use the same word until it is correctly used.
- Use the "Main Ideas" and the "Critical Thinking" sections of the "Review" page to clarify any questions the young people may have concerning what they have learned in the chapter.
- Remind the young people to discuss with their families why showing reverence for one another is important in the life of the family.

PRAY and REVIEW

The Divine Praises

The Divine Praises are a prayer of blessing and adoration. A prayer of blessing and adoration acknowledges that we are creatures, excels the Creator who made us, and recognizes that God is the source of all that is good.

Group 1: Blessed be God.

Group 2: Blessed be his holy name.

Group 1: Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Group 2: Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Group 1: Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Group 2: Blessed be his most precious Blood.

Group 1: Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar.

Group 2: Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Group 1: Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Group 2: Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Group 1: Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Group 2: Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Group 1: Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Group 2: Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

FAITH VOCABULARY

Define each of these faith words:

1. Decalogue p. 74
2. precepts p. 74
3. idols p. 76
4. reverence p. 77

MAIN IDEAS

Choose either (a) or (b) from each set of items. Write a brief paragraph to answer each of your choices.

1. (a) Describe the Ten Commandments as a summary of God's Law. p. 74
(b) Why is the First Commandment the foundation of the other Commandments? p. 76
2. (a) What is the connection between reverence and the Second Commandment? p. 77
(b) Describe the importance of taking part in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday. p. 78

CRITICAL THINKING

Using what you have learned in this chapter, briefly explain this statement:

The Ten Commandments summarize the Law of God written on every human heart.

Affirm appropriate responses.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Why is showing reverence for one another important in the life of a family?

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. Also the chapter review in the Teen Center will help you review what you have learned this week.



82

Before Moving On . . .

As you finish today's lesson, reflect on the following question before moving on to the next chapter.

What have I done to let the young people know that they are helping me grow in faith as I work with them?

Evaluate

Take a few moments to evaluate this week's lesson. I feel (circle one) about this week's lesson.

- a. very pleased
- b. OK
- c. disappointed

The activity the students enjoyed most was . . .

The concept that was most difficult to teach was . . . because . . .

Something I would like to do differently is . . .

ENRICHING THE LESSON

Thinking Positively Positive

Purpose

To reinforce that the Ten Commandments are the traditional and time-tested measure of our character as human beings, and state precepts that all people have a serious obligation to obey (taught on page 74)

Directions

- Remind the young people that Jesus taught, "If you wish to enter into life, keep the Commandments" (See Matthew 19:17).
- In small groups have the young people create their own set of life-giving commandments that are based on the Ten Commandments. Have the young people think of the commandments as positive, life-giving guidelines for young people.
- Invite the groups to share their set of ten positive ways to live the Commandments.

Materials

poster board
markers or pens

Grading the Media

Purpose

To reinforce that the First Commandment teaches to put God first and worship him alone (taught on page 76)

Directions

- Invite the young people to estimate the number of hours per day they watch TV, listen to music, surf the Internet, and play video games.
- Have the young people make a list of any daily media they are involved with for more than one hour per day.

- Next, have them grade the media from A to D; A = promotes Christian values; B = promotes some Christian values; C = promotes some idols; D = promotes mostly idols.
- Have volunteers share how they have graded the media they are engaged in each week and compare their grades with the other young people's grades.

Materials

paper
pencils

Putting God First

Purpose

To reinforce that the First Commandment teaches to put God first and worship only him (taught on page 76)

Directions

- In small groups have the young people role-play situations that show young people putting God first in their lives.
- Have the groups present their role-plays and discuss the choices that they have portrayed.

Materials

none



Music Connection

- "All You Works of God," M Haugen. *Gather Comprehensive* (GC) #492.
- "Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing," M. Joncas. GC #120.
- "Rain Down," J. Cortez. *Spirit and Song* #134.
- "We Praise You," D. Ducote. GC #541.