

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 14

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The Fourth Commandment calls us to honor our parents. (CCC, 2197-2200)
- The love, honor, and respect found in the Holy Family is a model for our own families. (CCC, 564)
- Within the family, we develop personal character, grow in our understanding of right and wrong, and learn what's truly important. (CCC, 1657, 2203-2208)
- We have a moral obligation to form and follow a well-formed conscience to help us in judging what is right or wrong. (CCC, 1776-1781)

Catechist Background

"Children, listen to me, your father; act accordingly, that you may be safe. For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children and confirms a mother's authority over her sons. ... Those who respect their father will live a long life; those who obey the Lord honor their mother."—The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 3:1, 2, 6

Reflect What has your family taught you about respect?

We human beings are social creatures. God designed us that way. If the relationships in our lives are generous and life-giving, bringing out the best in ourselves and others, then they are what God intended them to be. If, on the other hand, they are marked by selfishness, irresponsibility, and abuse, relationships can become avenues of sin.

Our families are where, for better or worse, we first learn how to live in relationship. If the relationships in the home are healthy and respectful, then children will be disposed to establish those kinds of relationships later in life. But, sadly, the opposite is also true, for if a family is dysfunctional, the members are inclined to carry that dysfunction into their other relationships, often creating patterns of brokenness and hurt that can last for generations, unless addressed.

The good news is that we believe in the One who breaks the chains of brokenness. The healing love of Jesus is stronger than even the strongest family dysfunction. That love must be communicated to families in need. The Church has a vital role to play in family life because she is a family of families, and she is best equipped to support parents in their role as the primary educators in the lives of their children.

Reflect How did your family experience help form you to be a good teacher?

Catechist's Prayer

Jesus, throughout your life on Earth you were a model of filial obedience. Teach me how to be obedient, Lord, so that I, like you, may be an instrument of God's love in the world. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Eighth-graders have been told that children should obey their parents, but they have reached a time of life in which they may feel some conflict with parents as they strive for more autonomy and independence. They need to know that even as they begin to think for themselves, they should treat their parents with respect and listen to what they say.

Teaching Tip

Point out that while eighth-graders don't yet know what it's like to be 35, or 40, or 45, their parents were once 13 and 14 like them. Adults can sometimes appear to eighth graders to know very little, because the music and elements of popular culture that are so important to young teens are often less familiar to adults. Still, they have life experience about more important issues that young people have not yet encountered. Encourage the young people to give their parents a chance, especially when they are faced with an issue they have little experience with. They might be surprised at how helpful a parent can be.

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

These youth come from a variety of family experiences, some highly positive and some less so. When you talk about ideals in family life, always be sensitive to the reality that no family ever completely lives up to the ideal, and that in some families the ideal is a distant dream.

- Young adolescents are dealing with the knowledge that their parents are human and that they are sometimes wrong. They may use this insight to justify their own decisions.
- Eighth-graders are sometimes torn between the desire to be protected by their parents and the desire to be independent.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is "known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer" (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Education for Community Life

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition**Knowledge of the Faith**

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Communal Life

- Objectives: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

Catholic Faith Literacy

conscience, conversion, Ten Commandments

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Helena on page 232. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 232, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 14 for the prayer on page 233.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "We Are One Body," Live, Page 233

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 14

Invite Page 223

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥ Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Have one volunteer pray the lines for the leader and another pray the Psalm verse.

Prompt the group's response. Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Explain that from our families, we learn about God and what it means to love him and be a sign of his love to others.

Say: Today's Scripture passage tells us we are called by God to always love and honor our parents.

† Scripture

Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- *Ask:* What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: The Holy Family provides us with the perfect model of a loving family relationship.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 226-227

Objectives

- Express what it means to follow the Fourth Commandment
- Explore what it means to honor one's parents

Invite the group to sit in a circle in the prayer space.

Ask them to think of three family members who most need their prayers right now. Lead the group in a circle prayer.

Explain that you will go around the group, asking each person to simply say one of the names they have thought of. After you've gone around the whole group one time, lead young people in the prayer, "God, help me love my family like you do."

Repeat this process two more times. End by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Being a Family

Direct the youth to silently read this section.

- Have them write any ways they can remember showing filial respect so far today.
- Poll the group to see which of the four attitudes is easiest and which is hardest for the majority of the young people.

The Holy Family

Ask volunteers to read aloud this section, including the content below the Scripture passage on page 227.

† Scripture

Ask a volunteer to proclaim the Scripture.

- For a more complete version of the story, have the youth read Luke 2:41–52 in their Bibles. Read aloud the text in the Catholics Today box and review with the group the information on the Holy Family.

*Ask: What do we celebrate on the Feast of the Holy Family? **the special family relationship among Mary, Joseph, and Jesus***

† Scripture Background

Luke 2:41–52

The Boy Jesus in the Temple is a significant story included in the Gospel according to Luke that tells about Jesus as a boy. If we study it, it reveals many things at many levels. We see Jesus already being called by and faithful to the covenant. We hear him identify himself with God, his Father. And we also see the real-life tension in a family where a mother is worried about her pre-teen boy when he begins to act more independently.

Activity

Have a volunteer read aloud the directions and the questions.

- After the young people have written down their thoughts, offer them an opportunity to share their answers.

Quick Review

The Fourth Commandment tells us we need to honor our parents and guardians by showing them filial respect. We do this by giving them obedience, respect, gratitude, and assistance.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 14: Filial Respect** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (2) Pages 228-229

Objectives

- Identify the lessons we can learn and apply from the Holy Family
- Examine the components necessary for a strong faith-filled family

Teaching Activity: Make the Mark

Participants will try to hit a target and "make the mark" with ping-pong balls marked with descriptions about the purpose of a family relationship.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed:

✦ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and download Family Purpose, Letter to Parents, Keys to a Healthy Relationship
large foam board, 7 ping pong balls, a bag, short utility knife, tape, markers

Preparation

- Create a target using a piece of large foam board. Cut out the center and with a marker draw several rings around the center circle to create a target.
- Number the ping-pong balls from 1-7 and place them in a bag.
- Print out the Family Purpose page and select a volunteer to help during the activity. Ask them to read the numbered statement when the corresponding ping-pong ball is selected during the activity.
- Print out one Keys to a Healthy Relationship handout per participant. Print out one Letter to Parents page for each participant to take home after the lesson.

Activity Directions

Say: While Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are like no other family who are living or who've ever lived on Earth, they are our model for everything a family can be. This is true because when Jesus, the Son of God, became human, he wanted us to know the Father's plan when he had first created human beings. God created us all to be capable of living the fullness of what it means to be human. So we can ask what is the purpose of a family according to God's plan?

Have a participant reach in the bag, pull out a ball, and announce the number. Have a child who already has one of the seven slips read the corresponding number. Ask the participant with the ball to throw it at the target from a challenging but not impossible distance. They will probably miss the mark. In that case, have the participant with the slip attempt it. Mark the target with an X anytime the ball makes the mark. Keep repeating the phrase, "You missed the mark" when the ball doesn't make the bull's-eye. After several attempts move on to the next participant and repeat the process until all numbers have been pulled from the bag.

Say: This game is a good reflection of what really happens in family life. We often "miss the mark" and do not live out the fullness of what God imagined families to be. Did you know that in Hebrew they use the phrase "missing the mark" for the word *sin*? While sometimes we may not consciously choose to miss the mark, in that case it isn't sin, there are other times when we choose to act against these goods on purpose, and that is sin. Either way, we do damage to each other and the place where we should know ourselves loved and supported misses the mark. We must make the choice each day to live in our family as God intended, to give him honor, and to love each other as he loves us.

Distribute the Keys to a Healthy Relationship chart to the participants. Point out that these are the components to healthy relationships.

Say: Let's number these keys to a healthy relationship and put them in the order by which component you think is most important. We are going to send home the same chart to your parents. It is important that you have a conversation with them about what order you gave these characteristics. It will help your family hit the mark!

Ask the youth to take their charts home with them so that they can compare their answers to their parents' answers.

Discover (3) Pages 230-231

Objectives

- Explain the importance of a well-formed conscience
- Discuss the vital relationship between the family and the Church

Point out the opening question, and explain that the group will be covering this in today's lesson.

A Place to Grow

Summarize the first paragraph.

- Have the youth silently read the remaining paragraphs in this section. Ask them to underline the most important points in each paragraph.

Give the youth time to reflect on and answer the question at the end of this section.

- Encourage volunteers to share their answers.

Work with Words

Ask the young people to read the definitions for the two Catholic Faith Words. Invite volunteers to explain in their own words the difference between conscience and informed conscience.

It Takes Work

Have the youth silently read this section.

- Write the following questions on the board or on chart paper: What is easiest for you in forming and maintaining relationships with family members? What do you need to work on?
- Invite the young people to reflect on their personal answers to the questions.
- Be sure to emphasize the importance of the relationship between our personal families and the Church family.

Activity

Give the youth time to think about the question and compose a prayer for their family.

In Summary

Have volunteers read aloud the summary information. • Ask the young people why they think we can call a family a "school of faith." • Invite them to share how their families help them learn what is truly important in their lives. • Remind the youth that we sometimes consider others, whom we share bonds of love with, our family members even if we are not blood relatives.

Live Pages 232-233

Objectives

- Examine family relationships
- Explore the faith life of Saint Helena
- Offer the prayer celebrating God's Word

Our Catholic Life

Review the Our Catholic Life information with the young people.

- Discuss the questions within the text.
- Impress upon the group the importance of showing care and concern for family members and loved ones.

People of Faith

Explain to the youth that Saint Helena is the patron Saint of archeology because of her discovery at the site of Jesus' tomb.

- Have a volunteer read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the additional information in the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on the relationships within the Holy Family and their own personal family relationships.

Here are some additional details about Saint Helena to assist you in presenting this section:

- Share that Saint Helena discovered important relics in the Holy Land.
- Historic Palestine was the name given to this land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.
- Today, the Holy Land is divided into the state of Israel and the Palestinian territories. It is one of the most conflicted regions in the world.

Activity

Read aloud the activity instructions.

- Have the young people work independently to come up with their plans.
- Remind them that they do not have to share personal information with the group. However, if anyone wishes to share some of the ideas they wrote down, allow them to do so.

Celebration of the Word

♥ Assign two volunteers to be the leader and reader. Remind them to take note of the pauses in the celebration.

- Gather the young people around the prayer table with the leader and reader standing in front of the group.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "We Are One Body," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 14 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Honoring the Family Page 223	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 34:12 Pray the opening prayer. The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 3:1–6 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Being a Family Pages 226–227 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express what it means to follow the Fourth Commandment • Explore what it means to honor one's parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss respect within the family. • Share how the Holy Family is a model for our families. Read Luke 2:41–52. • Activity Discuss the four attitudes that make up filial respect. • Activity Master Filial Respect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles Activity Master 14
Families and Relationships Pages 228–229 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the lessons we can learn and apply from the Holy Family • Examine the components necessary for a strong faith-filled family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will try to hit a target and “make the mark” with ping-pong balls correspond with descriptions of the purpose of a family relationship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Purpose, Keys to a Healthy Relationship <input type="checkbox"/> markers, tape <input type="checkbox"/> foam board, short utility knife, ping-pong balls
A Place to Grow Pages 230–231 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the importance of a well-formed conscience • Discuss the vital relationship between the family and the Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss things we can learn from our families. • Discuss why it is important for families to be a part of the Church. • Activity Compose a prayer asking God's help in improving family relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 232	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Helena. • Activity The students will plan ways to improve themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Celebration of the Word Page 233	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a leader and a reader. • Follow the order of prayer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “We Are One Body”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

filial respect, Feast of the Holy Family, conscience, informed conscience

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 234

aliveinchrist.osv.com Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

Filial Respect

In order to keep the Fourth Commandment—“Honor your father and your mother”—we need to respond to our parents in four ways. This fourfold response is called “filial respect.” The four responses are: obedience, respect, gratitude, and assistance. Use the following interview questions to record your own attitudes about filial respect and to poll your classmates and others. Use additional paper as needed.

OBEDIENCE

Give an example of how your parent(s) or guardian(s) expect you to obey.

Do you find it easy or difficult to obey? Why?

RESPECT

Describe how you think a person can show respect.

List some things you respect about your parent(s) or guardian(s).

GRATITUDE

List one or two reasons you are grateful to your parent(s) or guardian(s).

Do you think he/she/they know you are grateful? Why or why not?

ASSISTANCE

Describe a time when you assisted one or both parents or guardians.

How can you provide your parent(s) or guardian(s) with more assistance in the future?

Name _____

Date _____

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

1. We call Jesus, Mary, and Joseph the _____.
2. _____ enables us to distinguish between right and wrong.
3. The fourfold response children have toward their parents that is addressed in the Fourth Commandment is called _____.
4. _____ are responsible for the physical and spiritual needs of the entire family.

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

5. The purpose of a family will be helped or hurt by the quality of the ____ between all the members.

a. discussions	c. gift-giving
b. comparisons	d. relationships
6. The fourfold response of children toward their parents includes:

a. faith, hope, love, prayer	c. honesty, generosity, happiness, wealth
b. obedience, respect, gratitude, assistance	d. truth, justice, freedom, hope
7. It is important for each family to be part of a bigger family—the _____.

a. government	c. neighborhood
b. Church	d. motherland
8. Families are called to be a school of _____.

a. faith	c. design
b. homemaking	d. language

Write a response on the lines below.

9. Name at least three important things a person learns within a family.

10. What makes for healthy, strong relationships?

Family Purpose

- 1) Parents and guardians should nurture and support their children so that they can grow up in a safe, loving environment.
- 2) A family ought to be where we learn about our faith and where all family members learn about and relate to God.
- 3) Families should pray together.
- 4) Families should seek to promote living by the virtues.
- 5) Parents are the prime movers in a family. As adults, they are responsible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children so that younger members can grow.
- 6) Families draw out the best in all the members—adults and children—when they grow and work together.
- 7) Parents should support their children as they reflect and pray about their God given vocation.

Dear Parents,

We have been learning about God's plan and purpose for families, as well as hallmarks of a healthy family. Take a moment to prioritize this list. Your child has already done this during the lesson. Have a conversation about the order you've chosen and the reasons why you've prioritized it in this way. Compare your list to your child's list. Talk about the ways in which you might make your everyday family lives more clearly reflect your priorities.

_____ Time: We need to make time for a person to be a significant part of our lives. Giving time does not just mean being in the same room or the same town.

_____ Loyalty: Every good relationship demands that the people involved in it be true to each other, trust each other, be there for each other, and depend on each other's support.

_____ Truth: A relationship built on lies will not go far. Only upfront, honest communication grows a healthy, strong relationship.

_____ Flexibility: Not everything can be planned in a relationship. Sometimes spontaneous things are the most surprising and life-giving. Those in authority should ensure that each person's needs are met.

_____ Joy: The bonds between people cannot be formed solely by grief or by mutually confronting a dangerous or difficult situation; every relationship requires some laughter, fun, and finding joy.

Keys to a Healthy Relationship

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Time: We need to make time for a person to be a significant part of our lives. Giving time does not just mean being in the same room or the same town.

—

Loyalty: Every good relationship demands that the people involved in it be true to each other, trust each other, be there for each other, and depend on each other's support.

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Truth: A relationship built on lies will not go far. Only upfront, honest communication grows a healthy, strong relationship.

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Flexibility: Not everything can be planned in a relationship. Sometimes spontaneous things are the most surprising and life-giving. Those in authority should ensure that each person's needs are met.

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Joy: The bonds between people cannot be formed solely by grief or by mutually confronting a dangerous or difficult situation; every relationship requires some laughter, fun, and finding joy.

Rank the importance of these components of a healthy family relationship from 1 to 5, with 1 being most important and 5 least important. Compare your answers with a classmate.

