

# We Love God When We Keep the Lord's Day

**Objective:** The students will (1) review the story of how God called the Israelites into the desert to be His people and gave them commandments, and (2) learn about and be able to recite the 4th through 6th commandments.

## *For the Catechist*

The commandments are presented in the context of understanding the Greatest Commandment. Obeying the commandments is presented as a reasonable return for all God has given us.

**Honoring parents.** Honor is a difficult word to define since our society does not give us many examples. The students have heard this word and the commandment in previous texts. Honor was described as showing respect and love and obeying one's parents. When discussing the commandment, the "obeying" aspect should always be presented in the context of the love one has for one's parents. Love should be the motivation for obedience—we care for our parents out of love even when it is difficult.

**The New Commandment.** The students learned the Greatest Commandment, "Love God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself" this year. The "new" commandment is considered Jesus Christ's interpretation of the word "neighbor," as described in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. We are to do good not only to those whom we love but to those whom we consider our enemies. This is a very difficult concept for the children to grasp and for adults as well. At this time, the children need only memorize the Greatest Commandment. In the following year they will be presented with the "new" commandment. However, you may need to keep the new commandment in mind as you discuss specific instances and answer their questions.

**Conscience development.** Children at this stage in their development of conscience are still doing the right thing from fear of punishment. They need to be led into the next level where they put themselves in another's place. Helping them to this point are

## *Lesson Plan Overview*

**Opening:** Prayer for Forgiveness

**Introduction:** Imaginary shipwreck, discussion of rules **Need:** big piece of paper, marker, or chalkboard.

**Read Text Aloud:** Have students read text aloud.

### *Activity Tracks:*

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* Learning the Commandments
- *Group:* "Commandment" Chalkboard Crossword
- *Craft :* "Ten Commandments" Folding Cards, Part II

**Closing:** Prayer for Forgiveness

## *Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:*

Packet I:

Packet II:

## *Teaching Pic:*

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questions such as "How would you feel if your favorite toy was stolen?" They can share with one another stories of having been on the "victim" side of an wrong act. However, do not expect them to readily admit remorse for a wrong action. They may not feel bad at having hit someone who "deserved it." We can guide their thinking by sharing our own experiences ("When I lied to my friend, I felt very bad inside.") and guide their thoughts by our statements ("When we hurt someone, we feel bad").

The children, after some discussion of putting themselves in another's place, may be able to see that God's rules are good rules. They keep people from hurting each other. Also keep reminding the children that we obey God's rules, even when it is difficult, because God has given us so much. We want to please God.

The Mystery of Repentance will be included in Lesson 23. This would be a good time to consult with your priest as to the wording and formula for confession. Then you will be prepared to present this formula for Lesson 23.

### ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)*

#### **The Fourth through Tenth Commandments**

"The other commandments contain the seed of what it means to love others. We start by respecting others' most fundamental rights. Everyone created by God deserves to live. Each person has a right to a good name and belongings. Each spouse and parent deserves the fidelity and honor due them. We cannot say that we love anyone if we do not acknowledge these essential statutes" (*Celebrating Forgiveness* 14).

# The Lesson Plan

## Opening

[Gather at the icon corner.] *We are learning about God's commandments in this lesson.*

*At the end of the unit, we'll learn what we must do when we have NOT lived as God wants. We need to ask forgiveness. For our prayer for this unit, we'll learn the Prayer of Forgiveness. [Hand out the words and read it aloud to the students. Pause to explain the meaning of the words. Have the students say the prayer with you.]*

## Introduction

*Last week we began learning God's commandments. They help explain the Greatest Commandment. What is the Greatest Commandment? (Love God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself.) The first three commandments have to do with loving God. Who can remember one of them? (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. Keep holy the Lord's Day.)*

*Now, let's use our imagination. We've decided to take a class field trip, and we're on a boat with many other people. We are heading towards a very small island for a picnic. So far it's a fine day. Then, suddenly in the distance a great dark cloud appears. The wind begins to blow. The wind blows for hours and hours. Everyone but the captain goes below the deck. When the storm is over, we are grounded. We're on an island, but no one knows where. The ship is stranded. There is food and water for a week. The captain puts some people in charge of food, others in charge of building huts. He asks us, the religion class, to come up with a set of rules for our little island so the passengers can live together peacefully for the time we will be here together.*

*And that is where we are. What are the rules that people need to live together? [Allow many responses. Write them on a big piece of paper or on the chalkboard.]*

*God gave us rules for living together a long time ago when He called Moses to Mt. Sinai. The rest of the Ten Commandments, 4 through 10, are about loving our neighbor. Let's read our lesson and see how many rules of ours match those God gave.*

20

## We Love God and Keep the Commandments

Jesus gave us the Greatest Commandment:

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength,*

*and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

A long time before Jesus, God spoke to Moses. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments. We have learned that the commandments are important. They help explain the Greatest Commandment.

The first three commandments are about respecting and loving God. Do you remember the first three?

The next seven are about respecting others. We are learning what each commandment means.

04

### **Reading of Text**

*As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).*

#### **Do you remember the first three?**

*(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. Keep holy the Lord's Day.)*

**We are learning what each commandment means.** *We read that the remaining commandments are about respecting others. Would anyone like to guess what some of these are? [Allow responses.]*

#### **How do you honor your parents and those who care for you?**

*We honor those, our priest and our parents, whom God has given us to teach and guide us. How do we show honor? (We listen to them, and we serve them.) [Allow other responses.]*

#### **We do not kill.**

*God has given us life. God should decide when to take a life. Although this commandment says "do not kill," it also means "do not hurt another," except if your life is in danger and there is no other choice. Do you like it when someone hurts you? Remember how you feel when you think you want to hurt someone. [Allow responses.]*



The fourth commandment is "Honor your father and mother."

We honor our parents and those who care for us. We honor them when we listen to them. We honor them when we serve them. How do you honor your parents and those who care for you?

The fifth is "You shall not kill."

God gives life. God is the Creator of Life. Jesus is the Bread of Life. The Holy Spirit is the Breath of Life.

We are to respect life. We are not to hurt ourselves nor another person. We are not to take a life. God decides when a person should die. We do not kill.

05

## We should respect our bodies.

Do you know which parts of your body are private? They are the parts we keep covered except when we bathe. We are respectful of our own bodies and others.

Let's review the commandments we learned today. Who can name one of them? [As they name them, write them on board or on an index card. Use the number of the commandment as well.] (4. Honor your father and mother. 5. Do not steal. 6. Do not commit adultery.)

Let's review the first three commandments which are about respecting and loving God. Who can name one of them? (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. Keep holy the Lord's Day.)



The sixth is "You shall not commit adultery."

Jesus told us that God unites a man and a woman in marriage. It is a special relationship. When someone does not respect that relationship, it is adultery. We should respect our bodies.

Can you name the commandments you have learned already?

06

## Activity Tracks

### Basic: Learning the Commandments

We have learned six of the ten commandments so far. As you do this worksheet, try to think of the right word for the blank before you look for it in the box. Let's see how you do. Afterwards let's see how many commandments you can recite by heart.

### Learning the Commandments

A. Fill in the blanks. Words to use are given in the shaded boxes. There are more words than you need. Some words are used twice. Choose carefully.

- The fourth commandment is "honor your father and mother."
- We honor our parents when we listen to them.
- The fifth commandment is "You shall not kill."
- We are not to hurt another nor to take a life.

B. How many words can you think of that have to do with the commandments you've learned so far? Write them in the box below.

listen
kill
life
hurt
honor
destroy
adultery

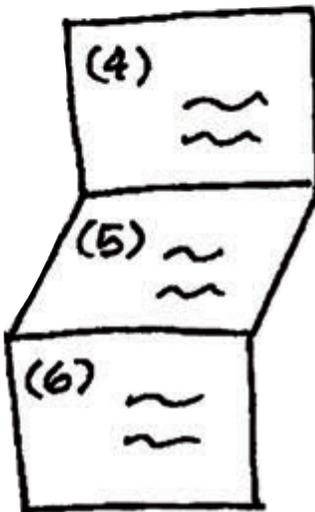
God parents kill  
name not  
hurt honor  
Lord's Day holy



**Group:** "Commandment" Chalkboard Crossword

**Materials:** Chalkboard and chalk, or large piece of poster board and markers.

*We have learned many of the commandments already. We have enough words to make another chalkboard crossword. Do you remember how this works? I'll divide you into teams. The first team places a word on the board, any word that has something to do with the six commandments we've learned already. Let's try for a word with five or more letters to get the crossword off to a good start. The next team has to think of another word about Jesus, and they can place it on the board if it shares a letter with the first word or "crosses" the first word. The next team continues adding words to our crossword game. If we get stuck, we'll start a new game. [You may alter the game by giving a point to a team when it places a word. The team that is stumped "passes" and does not receive a point but the crossword continues.]*



**Craft:** "Ten Commandments" Folding Cards, Part II

**Materials:** Materials from previous week, "Commandments 4-6" worksheet

[Have example ready to show] *We've been studying the Ten Commandments, and so far we know six of them. We'll continue with our craft. Each of you will receive a worksheet that has the next three commandments. Cut each out, and paste each one to an index card. When you're done we'll attach them to those we did last week. As you paste a commandment, read it to yourself so you can try to remember it.*

**Closing:** *Let's gather and pray the Prayer for Forgiveness.*

*(4) Honor your father  
and mother.*

*(5) Do not kill.*

*(6) Do not commit  
adultery*