

"We Love God and Our Neighbor"

Objective: The students will review the first six commandments and be able to state the remaining four 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.

God not only wants us to respect Him but to respect all His people. The 7th through 10th commandments continue in the theme of the 4th through 6th, that is they contain the seed of what it means to love others. We respect each person's most fundamental rights. Every person wants his or her property respected. In God's way of thinking, it is not enough that we don't steal; He states that we are not even to covet a man's property or wife. We cannot say that we love others if we do not treat them with the respect demanded by these statutes.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

Evil enters the world

"Humanity's choice not to participate in God's plan for the world results in disaster. Adam and Eve lose their companionship with God and their access to the tree of life. They are condemned to eventual death: the men to work by sweat and toil and the women to experience pain in childbearing. They feel the pangs of guilt and lose the beautiful homeland that had been under their dominion. By his act of murder, Cain becomes a person despised, a wanderer without a real home in this world. As sin spreads, God destroys nearly the whole race He had made and restarts it with Noah. Through pride human beings lose the ability to communicate and become strangers to one another 'scattered all over the earth' (Gn 11:9). The results of sin are always death, alienation, and confusion. These tales succinctly tell the story of human history. From the very beginning we developed a habit of acting con-

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Prayer for Forgiveness

Introduction: Discussion of commandments 4-6 and placement in categories of loving God and loving neighbor. **Need:** 10 Index cards on which are written the Ten Commandments, and two larger cards on which are written: Love God and Love Neighbor, (tape if you wish to use wall or blackboard).

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:* The Ten Commandments
- *Group:* "Commandment" Concentration
- *Craft:* "Ten Commandments" Folding Cards, Part III

Closing: Prayer for Forgiveness

Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:

Packet I:

Packet II:

Teaching Pic:

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trary to our true well-being by rejecting the plan of the Creator. In vain and false attempts to become like God on our own terms, lost our true likeness to God" (*LLI 27*).

The reality of Satan

"Another theme in these primitive stories is the introduction of sin by an evil influence from outside human nature. The serpent tempts Adam and Eve through lies and deception, telling them that, if they ignore God's warning, they 'will be like gods ...' (Gn 3:5). Rv 12:9 identifies the serpent with the devil, who is 'a liar by nature—a liar and the father of lies' (Jn 8:44). Humanity was created good, destined for union with God and for the love and help of one another. Our impulse towards evil comes from the outside, from that personal evil spirit we call Satan. St. Paul observed, 'Our battle is not against human forces but against the principalities and powers, the rulers of this world of darkness, the evil spirits in the regions above' (Eph 6:12 NAB)" (*LLI 21-28*).

The issue of responsibility

"The existence of the devil as the source of evil does not remove our own responsibility for our actions. Yet, we cannot do what is evil without some deception. We must believe it to be for our benefit, at least in the short run. When we decide to do wrong, we make this deception a form of 'self-deception,' the condition for all sin. We become followers of the 'evil one' rather than of Christ, the Light of the world. We become ourselves 'people of the lie'" (*LLI 28*).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Let's come to the icon corner. In this unit we are learning about God's commandments. God wants us to live according to His rules. When we don't we need to ask forgiveness. We're learning the Prayer for Forgiveness. Let's say it aloud. [You may wish to review the words you previously explained to the students.]

Introduction

[If you have a large class, you may wish to tape the "Love God" and "Love Neighbor" cards to a wall or blackboard.] We have learned the Greatest Commandment. Who remembers what it is? ("You shall love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself") We learned that the Ten Commandments help explain the Greatest Commandment. Today we'll think about what that means. On the table are two large cards labeled for the two parts of the Greatest Commandment — "Love God" and "Love Neighbor." I've written the six commandments which we've studied already on these index cards. Each of these six cards goes under either "Love God" if that is what it is about, or "Love Neighbor" if that is what it is about. I'll place them face down, and ask for a volunteer to choose one and place it in the right category. When you place it in a category, explain what the commandment means.

[Commandments 1-3 are "Love God," and 4-6 are "Love Neighbor." If students don't volunteer, turn the cards over and let them choose one they know. When all cards are placed, read all under each category.]

Today we'll learn about the last four commandments. One of them is about stealing. What is stealing? [Allow responses.] Another one is about lying. Another way to say "lying" is to say "bearing false witness" as if you were a witness at a trial. Finally, we have two commandments about wanting something that isn't yours. That's called "coveting." We should not want something so badly that its all we can think about. We should be thankful for what we have.

Let's read about the last four commandments.



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.

Can you remember the fourth, fifth, and sixth commandment?

(4) Honor your mother and father. (5) Do not kill. (6) Do not commit adultery.

Who can tell me one way to honor your parents? (Love, obey, serve) Why don't we kill? (God is the Creator of Life and He alone should decide whether someone lives or dies.) The sixth commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," means husbands and wives should be faithful to one another. We should also respect our bodies and the privacy of others in regard to their bodies.

We do not steal.

If you ever think of stealing, remember how it would feel if someone took something of yours. How about when you find something that isn't yours, what should you do? (Tell a grown-up.) What if you can't give back what you took? (Give something of equal value.)

... and we should not cheat.

Has anyone ever lied and gotten you into trouble? [Allow responses.] We should always tell the truth and never lie to get someone in trouble. What does cheating mean? (To not play a game right) This commandment also means we should not cheat nor put others down or call them names. Have you ever been called a name or put down? How does it feel? If you've been called a name, you should know it feels bad and remember that when you feel tempted to call someone a name.



God wants wives and husbands to love each other and not want to marry anyone else.

What is the ninth commandment? (You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.) What does it mean? (Wives and husbands should not want to marry another.)

God gives us what we need.

What is the tenth commandment? (You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.) What does covet mean? (Coveting is when we wish to have what doesn't belong to us; and if we had the chance, we would take it.) The taking of something is stealing. The wanting of something so badly is coveting. We should not want something else so much that we would consider stealing it. God wants us to be thankful for what we have.

Let's try to answer the questions. Which commandments are about respecting and loving God? (The first three: I am the Lord, your God, you shall not have strange gods before me. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. Keep holy the Lord's Day.) Which are about respecting our neighbor? (Honor your father and mother. Do not steal. Do not commit adultery. Do not kill.) We say the coveting commandments are also about respecting our neighbor. So the Ten Commandments are the first steps in keeping the Greatest Commandment: love God, love your neighbor.

Activity Tracks

Basic: The Ten Commandments

We've completed our lessons about the Ten Commandments. Let's see if we can complete this worksheet that will help us review all of them. [After students have completed the worksheet, ask them which commandments help explain loving God and which help explain loving our neighbor.]

The ninth commandment is "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife."
What does covet mean? Sometimes we want something very much. We can't stop thinking about it. We forget about God. The ninth commandment is for those who are married. God wants wives and husbands to love each other and not want to marry anyone else.

The tenth commandment is "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods."
God wants us to be thankful for what we have. We should not want what we do not have and forget about God. God gives us what we need.

The Ten Commandments are the first steps in keeping the Greatest Commandment. Which commandments are about respecting and loving God? Which commandments are about respecting our neighbor? Try to memorize the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments

B. Draw a line to the word that will complete the sentence.

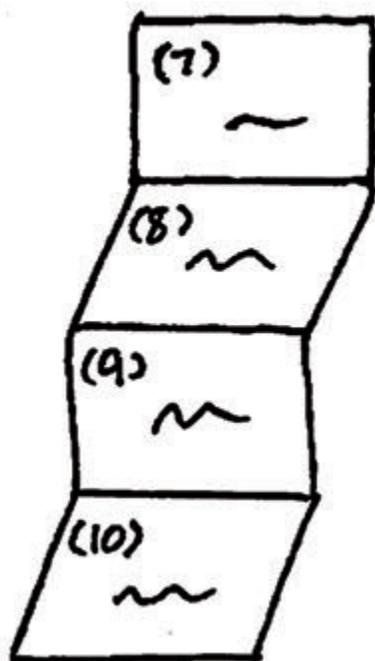
1. I am the Lord, _____, you shall not have strange Gods before Me.
2. Do not take the name of the Lord, your God, in _____.
3. Remember to keep holy the _____.
4. _____ your father and mother.
5. You shall not _____.
6. You shall not commit _____.
7. You shall not _____.
8. You shall not bear _____ witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not _____ your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's _____.

Words to be matched: Honor, your God, kill, vain, Lord's Day, goods, steal, covet, false, adultery.

Group: "Commandment" Concentration

Materials: "Commandments" worksheet copied onto heavier paper (2 per work group), scissors, baggies.

[You may wish to cut out the commandments and make sets for the students ahead of time.] *To help you remember the Ten Commandments, I've made up a concentration game. This is how you play. I'll divide you into groups. You will cut apart the Ten Commandment cards on two worksheets—this will give you two cards for each commandment. Then you'll place them upside down on the table in neat rows and columns, like a checkerboard. Each person gets a turn to flip over two cards. If the cards match, the person gets to keep them. If not, they are turned back over and placed where they were. Then the next person takes a turn. The one with the most pairs is the winner of that round. If you have time, you can play another round. Here's a hint: if you say the commandment aloud or at least the key word, it will be easier to remember where it is on the table.*



Craft: "Ten Commandments" Folding Cards, Part III

Materials: Materials from previous lessons, "Commandments 7-10" worksheets 1 and 2

We've completed our study of the Ten Commandments, and now we can complete our project. Each of you will receive a worksheet with the last four commandments. Cut out and paste each on an index card. When you're done, we'll tape them to the ones we've completed. Now you can gather them like an accordion. Hold the ribbon at the top and let them unfold. Place this project in your room to help you remember, and follow the Ten Commandments.

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

<p><i>(1) I am the Lord, your God, you shall not have strange gods before Me.</i></p>	<p><i>(6) Do not commit adultery.</i></p>
<p><i>(2) You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.</i></p>	<p><i>(7) Do not steal.</i></p>
<p><i>(3) Keep holy the Lords Day.</i></p>	<p><i>(8) Do not bear false witness.</i></p>
<p><i>(4) Honor your father and mother.</i></p>	<p><i>(9) Do not covet your neighbor's wife.</i></p>
<p><i>(5) Do not kill.</i></p>	<p><i>10) Do not covet your neighbor's goods.</i></p>

(7) Do not steal

*(8) Do not bear false
witness.*

*(9) Do not covet your
neighbor's wife.*

*(10) Do not covet your
neighbor's goods.*