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Commandments Four, Five, & Six

Respect everyone and show special love for God's people.
(1 Peter 2:17)

Read

The fourth, fifth, and sixth commandments teach us about respecting God's gift of life. God creates every person to be special and unique. He wants us to know that he loves each of us very much, and he expects us to love and respect one another as well.

Commandment #4: Honor your father and mother. God gave your parents the very important responsibility of caring for you. They love you and teach you how to love and respect others. God asks you to honor your parents. This means that you should obey them and show them respect. When you learn how to listen to your parents, you are also learning how to listen to God.

Commandment #5: You shall not kill. God created each of us in his image. Because of this, human life is sacred. The right to life is the most basic human right, and God expects each of us to respect it. You should always treat your life and the lives of others with care and respect. Killing another innocent human being on purpose is an extremely grave sin.

Commandment #6: You shall not commit adultery. The love between a husband and a wife is very special. When a man and a woman get married, they make a sacred vow to God and to each other that they will always share their love with each other. When a husband and/or wife is unfaithful, they commit adultery.

Reflection Words

commandment • unique • honor • respect • sacred • grave • adultery • vow

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Talk About It!

Think about each question below. Talk about each question with the class.

1. How can you show respect for the lives of others? Why is this so important to God?
2. How do you think God feels when one of his children takes the life of another? Are there any times when taking another's life is not a sin?
3. Is it possible for a husband and a wife to repair their relationship with God and each other if they have committed adultery? How might they do this?

Connect The fourth commandment says to honor your father and mother. Who are some other adults/caregivers you should honor? Why?

Reflect Summarize a Bible story that teaches us about the importance of the fourth, fifth, or sixth commandment. What is the lesson in the story?

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The People of the Church

Look after yourselves and everyone the Holy Spirit has placed in your care. Be like shepherds to God's church. (Acts 20:28)

Read

All Catholics share the same beliefs, no matter what language they speak or what country they live in. We are united by our love for God and through Baptism. Many people make up the Church community, and each person plays an important role in helping others grow in their faith and love for God.

A **parish** is a Catholic family made up of people who worship and pray together at the same church. Parishioners serve the Church through different ministries such as altar servers, catechists, teachers, ushers, and volunteers.

A **pastor** is a priest who has been given the important job of leading an entire parish. A pastor teaches us about God and leads us in prayer and worship.

A **deacon** is a priest's assistant. He helps serve the parish by baptizing new members of the Church and teaching parishioners about God.

A **diocese** is a group of local parishes led by a **bishop**. A bishop continues the work of the apostles by leading the diocese and teaching in the name of Jesus. A bishop makes the diocese holy. A large or important diocese is called an **archdiocese** and is led by an **archbishop**.

The **pope** is the leader of the entire Catholic Church. He is the Bishop of Rome and the successor of Saint Peter. He works with the bishops to teach and guide the Church the way God wants.

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Reflection Words

parish • pastor • deacon • diocese • bishop • archdiocese • archbishop • pope

Talk About It!

Think about each question below. Talk about each question with the class.

1. What is the name of your diocese or archdiocese? Who is your bishop or archbishop?
2. How are the roles of the pope and the priest alike? How are they different?
3. Some people of the Church are referred to as "the clergy." Who is considered to be part of the clergy?

Connect What are some things your parish does to help the community?

Reflect Imagine you were given $1,000 to help your parish in any way you like. How would you spend the money?

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God's People

Israel, you are the chosen people of the Lord your God. There are many nations on this earth, but he chose only Israel to be his very own. (Deuteronomy 7:6)

Read

The **Old Testament** teaches us about very important people and events before the birth of Jesus. God's people lived in the Middle East in the area that we now call Israel. During Biblical times, this area was called the land of Canaan.

God chose Abraham to be the father of his people. God promised Abraham and his wife, Sarah, that they would have a child, even though they were very old. God kept his promise, and Sarah gave birth to a son. Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac. When Isaac grew up and got married, he and his wife gave Abraham and Sarah many grandchildren.

Jacob was Isaac's son and one of Abraham and Sarah's grandchildren. God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and from then on, God's chosen people were called the Israelites. The Israelites had a great love for God. They praised him and trusted in him. In return, God protected the Israelites and cared for them.

One day, there was a terrible famine in Canaan that drove the Israelites to Egypt to find food. In Egypt, the Israelites became slaves who were forced to work for the pharaoh, the King of Egypt. God did not want his people to live in slavery, so he chose a man named Moses to lead them out of Egypt. In the Book of Exodus, we learn of God's promise to Moses that he would guide them back to Canaan, the original land promised to them.

On the way to Canaan, God asked Moses to climb Mount Sinai, where he made a special covenant, or agreement, with Moses and the people. God promised to be their God if they would promise to be his people. God would protect them and give them freedom if they agreed to worship him as their one true God and follow his laws. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to help the people keep this covenant.

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Reflection Words

Israel • Canaan • Abraham • Sarah • famine • Pharaoh • Exodus • covenant

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Talk About It!

Think about each question below. Talk about each question with the class.

1. How did the Israelites show their love for God?
2. How do you think Moses felt when God gave him the Ten Commandments? Do you think he believed that the people would be able to follow them?
3. Why do you think God called Moses to Mount Sinai and not someplace else, such as a sea?

Connect

God called Abraham, Jacob, and Moses to serve others.
How do you serve God by serving others?

Reflect

Write about a time you made an agreement with someone. What did you agree to? How did you keep your part of the agreement? Was it hard to keep the agreement?

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The Lord's Prayer

Read

The Lord's Prayer is the most important prayer in our faith. We sometimes call this prayer the "Our Father." Jesus taught us this prayer so that we can honor God and remember his love for us. The Lord's Prayer reminds us of how God wants us to live our lives. Each part of the Lord's prayer has a special meaning.

The Lord's Prayer	Meaning of Line
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.	This tells God that we worship him and honor him by keeping his name holy.
Thy kingdom come.	We ask God to help everyone live as Jesus' disciples. We look forward to the day we see God's kingdom.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.	We ask God to help us live according to his will and for him to help others live as good Christians.
Give us this day our daily bread,	We ask God to provide us with our needs and to help us share with the poor so their needs can be met, too.
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,	We ask God to forgive us for our sins. We ask him to help us forgive those who have hurt us.
And lead us not into temptation,	We ask God to help us make good choices and avoid sin.
But deliver us from evil.	We ask God to protect us from things that might harm us.
Amen.	"Amen" means "I believe."

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Reflection Words

Lord's Prayer • Our Father • hallowed • trespass • temptation • deliver

Talk About It!

Think about each question below. Talk about each question with the class.

1. Why did Jesus teach us the Lord's Prayer?
2. Give an example of how you live the words of the Lord's Prayer.
3. Imagine Jesus asked you what you feel the most important part of the Lord's Prayer is. What would you tell him?

Connect How many times a day do you say the Lord's Prayer? Do you pray alone or with others?

Reflect In some churches, the parishioners hold hands when they say the Lord's Prayer. Do you agree or disagree with this practice? Why?

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Gifts of the Holy Spirit

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit.
(1 Corinthians 12:4)

Read

At baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us seven very special gifts to help us live holy lives and grow in God's love. The Holy Spirit is always with us to guide us and help us make good choices. He gives us the grace to live as Jesus did and turn away from sin. The seven **gifts of the Holy Spirit** are wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, reverence, and fear of the Lord.

Wisdom helps us use our faith to see the world as God sees it. It helps us follow God's will in our lives.

Understanding helps us love others by knowing what our faith stands for and living it.

Counsel (also called *right judgement*) helps us make good choices and follow the Ten Commandments.

Courage (also called *fortitude*) helps us be strong in our faith and make decisions that please God. It helps us stand up for what is right.

Knowledge helps us learn about God and his love.

Reverence (also called *piety*) helps us show respect for God. It allows us to love and trust in him completely.

Fear of the Lord (also called *wonder and awe*) gives us awe and respect for God, which helps us to avoid sin.

Reflection Words

wisdom • understanding • counsel • courage • knowledge • reverence • fear

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Talk About It!

Think about each question below. Talk about each question with the class.

1. How do the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit help us stay close to God?
2. Think of someone you know who demonstrates one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. How does this person do this?
3. Describe a time that you had to use the gift of courage. How did you use it?

Connect Think about your priest and everything that he does as a servant of God. Which gift do you think is most important to help him do his job? Why?

Reflect Describe a time when one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit helped you. How did this gift help you? How would things have been different without this gift?

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