

Fourth Grade: Lesson 16

Commandments 1-3: Guiding My Choices

Lesson Objective:

After laying the foundation for the context and purpose of moral behavior, these outcomes give children the opportunity to study the Ten Commandments in depth. Catechists are invited to explore the Ten Commandments in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 2084 and following) to obtain more background on the implication of each commandment for our behavior. Discussion on each commandment can then be adapted to the child's developmental level. This lesson should focus on commandments I through III.

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain the deeper meaning of each of the Ten Commandments] and outcome.
- Discuss disobedience to the Ten Commandments as sinful and harmful to our relationship with God, while focusing on commandments I through III.

Materials Needed: **Note this lesson has activities that need to be prepared ahead of time.**

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, [prepare the Cup Game](#), scissors, glue, [magazines, catalogs that can be cut out](#), or [pictures printed off the internet](#)
- Copies: True/False beginning of class activity (optional), Thou Shall activity, 10 Commandments in Pictures, Examination of Conscience Reflection Handout

As Students Enter Class:

- You may enjoy giving students an opening activity such as the one attached at the end of this lesson. There is a true and false activity which encourages students to start thinking about the Ten Commandments.

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 16 Video	<p>This video is 1:06 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Today, we are focusing on the first three of the Ten Commandments. Commandments one through three addresses how we treat God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange God's before me. 2) You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God in vain. 3) Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day. <p>By following the Ten Commandments, we show love for God and all of His creation.</p>
<p>Read and Discuss the Ten Commandments</p> <p>Enjoy this time of focus on the first three Commandments.</p> <p>Encourage students to be reflective and to relate the commandments to their everyday behaviors. "Bad" habits can be changed with time and focus. We can confess our sins and start again.</p> <p>Consider reciting the three Commandments several times as a method of helping students memorize them.</p>	<p>Catechist, you will be reading each slide with your students and discussing the information presented. This is meant to be an in-depth look at the first three Commandments. It provides a little history, vocabulary, and Bible references as they all pertain to these commands. Provide insightful questions and opportunity for students to share their thoughts and to also ask questions.</p> <p>It is important to help students realize that these three Commandments guide us in developing a loving, respectful, and faithful relationship with God. This is more than just following rules. Understanding the 10 Commandments help us grow in our understanding of God and how we are to ultimately live our lives here on Earth. This is important because it helps lead us to life eternal with God in Heaven.</p>
Thou Shall Activity	<p>Turn the shall not to thou shall – only for the first three Commandments. Each week, you will focus on a few Commandments, so please keep the paper for your students until it is finished.</p>

	<p>This can be done individually or as a whole class, where each student writes the same answer.</p>
The 10 Commandments in Pictures	<p>Using magazines, catalogs, and anything else that has pictures students can cut out, students find pictures that represent each Commandment.</p> <p>Students can work individually or in pairs.</p>
Examination of Conscience	<p>Provide a quiet atmosphere, perhaps with a little less lighting, and read through each prompt, allowing time in between for students to reflect and jot down their responses.</p> <p>Students can share answers at the end of the activity, or not. They may prefer to keep their thoughts private.</p>
10 Commandment Cup Game	<p>There is some preparation ahead of class time for this activity. Save it for future classes!</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Gather around your prayer space and pray the Act of Contrition.</p>

Directions: Read each sentence. If you think it is one of the Ten Commandments, put a check in that column. If you think it is not part of the Ten Commandments, put a check in that column.

Beginning of Class Activity

	In the 10 Commandments	Not in the 10 Commandments
Honor your mother and father.		
Always share with a friend.		
Keep holy the Lord's Day.		
You shall not kill.		
Blessed are the peacemakers.		
You shall not steal.		
You shall not hit.		
Blessed are the poor in spirit.		
You don't always have to listen to your parents.		