

Third Grade: Lesson 16

BEING GOOD: GOD HELPS US

Lesson Objective:

These outcomes explore how we live as disciples of Christ. What we do and how we act matters. Our behavior reflects our identity as sons and daughters of God. It is important to teach these outcomes in the context of one's relationship with God. We don't obey the commandments primarily out of fear of punishment, but because of our love for Jesus and our desire to please Him. Help the children understand that we are responsible for keeping God's commandments even if we do not feel like following them.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Understand that we obey God because He loves us, and we love Him (CCC 1709).
- Identify what the Ten Commandments tell us to do and not to do and understand that we are responsible for keeping God's commandments (CCC 2052-2557).
- Memorize and recite the Ten Commandments in order (CCC following 2051, The Ten Commandments).
- Recognize that the Two Great Commandments of Jesus are reflected in the ten commandments.
- Give examples of man's unique relationship with God as set apart from the rest of creation; naming the animals, cultivating the earth, and choosing between good and evil.
- Personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, as inspiration to live a virtuous life.
- Understand that the devil tries to turn us away from God (CCC 381-395, Matt 4:1-11).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons
- Copies: Word search or other opening activity of choice, I am a Temple of the Holy Spirit, Follow the 10 Commandments out of Love, Not Fear, Examination of Conscience with the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes, Prayer Journal Page, 10 Commandments Game

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a 10 Commandment booklet, wordsearch or coloring page available for students to work on as they are waiting for everyone to arrive.
- [10 Commandment Word Search](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer that you have been working on.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 16 Video	<p>This video is 1:35 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last week we discussed what we believe as Catholic Christians through the creeds of the Church. Today, we will learn why we do what we do. How we live reflects our identity as sons and daughters of God.</p> <p>Our desire to live a virtuous life deepens as our friendship with Jesus grows. It's okay to have a healthy fear of the consequences of sin; but we do not want to be afraid of God. We obey God because He loves us and we love Him. Through our friendship with Jesus, we are inspired to keep the 10 Commandments and live a virtuous life. We will also come to realize that we are a temple of the Holy Spirit and we become holy as we unite ourselves to Christ, through the sacraments.</p> <p>Today let's learn more about the Ten Commandments and why they are still relevant today.</p>
The 10 Commandments Video	<p>This video is 3:02 in length.</p> <p>Note: Two of the commandments in this video are not in our Catholic version of the 10 Commandments.</p> <p>Highlights: Young children narrate this video, which makes it engaging for third graders.</p> <p>It begins: Did you know God gave us some important rules to follow? A little while after the Israelites escaped Egypt, God called Moses to the top of a mountain and gave him 10 important rules.</p> <p>The first 4 rules are about God and us (but it is the first 3 commandments for us) and the last 6 are about us and other people (and for Catholics it's the last 7).</p>

	<p>The video states the commandments using words students will understand. It also explains the two commands Jesus gave us.</p>
<p>The 10 Commandments: Still Relevant</p>	<p>This video is 2:14 in length. This video is narrated by a priest.</p> <p>Highlights: Are the 10 Commandments still relevant? When people in the Old Testament forgot to follow the 10 Commandments, they lost their place with God.</p> <p>They are important because Jesus says so. Jesus summarizes the 10 Commandments, when he gives us His two great commands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love God with all your heart and with everything you have. • Love your neighbor as yourself. <p>When you read and think about the 10 Commandments, you will see that love is at the heart of every command. Father then suggests we pick one commandment each day and read it and memorize it, spend time with it. This will help us learn the 10 Commandments, which in turn will help us live the lives God wants us to live.</p> <p>DISCUSS: THINK ABOUT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. PICK UP AND REFLECT UPON IT. HOW CAN THIS COMMANDMENT HELP YOU LIVE THE LIFE GOD HAS PLANNED FOR YOU?</p>
<p>Lesson 16, Part 2</p>	<p>This video is .45 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: We have the responsibility to make good and holy choices. Jesus really wants us to follow the 10 Commandments.</p> <p>How we treat others really matters. Each day you will have many situations where you will need to choose to turn toward God and turn</p>

	<p>away from the devil. Making good choices can be described as living out God's will for you.</p> <p>In the next video, figure out your identity as a son or daughter of God.</p>
<p>How to Know God's Will for You?</p> <p>HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THAT WE ALL NEED TO BE ACTIVE LEARNERS ABOUT OUR FAITH, AND NOT PASSIVE. THE MORE EFFORT WE PUT IN TO LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH, THE MORE WE WILL UNDERSTAND.</p>	<p>This video is 2:04 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: This video answers the question, How to Know God's Will for You?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know that God loves you: Because God created you, deep inside your heart, you have the ability to find the answer to this question. 2. Pray: Life with God is all about prayer. Find Him and reach out to Him, get to know Him. You can tell God anything you have on your heart. Remember to take time to listen. 3. Learn about your faith: Read the Bible and books by Christian authors. You will begin to recognize who Jesus is and who you are in the eyes of God. 4. Discern: Find out what your deepest desire is. Not superficial, but very deep inside of yourself. 5. Confirm: You are not alone in your faith journey. The Church can help you. Speak with someone who is close to Jesus and tell them about your path with God. They can help you figure out what God is telling you deep inside your heart. <p>Then you may find the answer to the question: What is the will of God in my life and how can I be completely happy with God forever.</p> <p>STOP AND REFLECT: Ask students to share their thoughts or to ask questions.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY: Video and I am a Temple of the Holy Spirit activity</p>	<p>Students may not fully understand what it means to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. The video does a nice job explaining this important</p>

<p>If you don't want to do the drawing, please consider showing the video because it is well done and something the students need to understand.</p>	<p>concept. It first explains how the temple is a holy building and then the explanation moves on to how our bodies are now a temple for the holy spirit (relating it to Pentecost).</p> <p>Students are asked to draw a picture of how their bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit and should be honored.</p>
<p>Following the 10 Commandments out of Love, not Fear</p>	<p>This activity encourages students to think about ways to follow the Ten Commandments because they love God and want to be closer to Him.</p> <p>This activity can be done individually, in pairs, or all together.</p>
<p>Examination of Conscience</p> <p>If students seem overwhelmed, consider focusing on just the 10 Commandments. Read them to students and provide time for sharing with the class. Then narrow it down to two of the commandments, and have students write their thoughts on just the two.</p>	<p>This activity uses the 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes to help students reflect upon their sins and choices, in order to make a good confession and begin anew.</p> <p>You may want to read them to the children, giving them time to think/reflect. Students can write down their thoughts or ideas.</p> <p>If students seem confused or are not responding, then you may want to pick two commandments to focus on. Read them and then encourage students to write how they can improve or make a better choice in order to follow this commandment.</p>
<p>Prayer Journal Page</p>	<p>This can be used if you don't have prayer journals already made.</p>
<p>Ten Commandment Game</p>	<p>Depending on the amount of time you have left, you may not have time to play this game. You may like to read some of the questions and use this as a fun Trivia activity.</p> <p>Students who answer can earn a piece of candy as an incentive.</p>

Closing Activity

Gather around your prayer space and pray a prayer of your choosing.