

The Great Commandment

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 197,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Explain the Great Commandment in relationship to the Ten Commandments
- Describe the Transfiguration as the revelation of Jesus in glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John
- Reflect on the Beatitudes and how they should influence our lives
- Follow the practice of charity in our own faith journeys
- Explore how the Precepts of the Church help the faithful to live holy and dutiful lives

Read the Consider This feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *There is nothing you want more for your child than his/her happiness. Almost everything you do is directed at helping your child achieve that state. As you begin this unit on the moral life, you will teach your child that happiness is achieved through living in right relationship with God and others. What Jesus taught us is now verified by scientific research. People determine their level of happiness based on the quality of their relationships. As Catholics, we understand that our primary relationship, the one we were created for, is our relationship with God. This chapter can be an invitation to reflect upon the quality of your relationship with God.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Open My Eyes
- Christ Our Life

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 189,
The Great Commandment
Vivos en Cristo, Page 379

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Jesus tells us that love of God and love of our neighbor are not in competition with one another. If we truly love God, we will also love our neighbor.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Loving God and loving neighbor are two sides of the same coin. Because God, who is love, first favored us with love, we are called to respond to God by loving him, our neighbor, and ourselves.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about loving God and our neighbors.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 190,
Old Law and New Law
Vivos en Cristo, Page 381

Ask your child if he/she can think of an example of someone who broke the law and the effect that the person’s actions had on others?

Say: There are civil laws that help us to live in society, but the most important laws are the laws given to us by God that help us live in right relationship with him and others.

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Remind your child that the Laws of Israel helped people to live in response to God’s love. It helped them understand how to love God in return.

Point out that the Old Law is still important and that the Commandments are still binding today.

Emphasize that the Old Law was a preparation for the New Law revealed by Jesus.

Direct your child to find Jeremiah 31:33–34 in your Bible.



Proclaim God’s Word.

Ask: What does it mean to have the law written in your heart? *(We are creatures made by God; we desire to know good, truth, justice.)*



Complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 191,
The Sacrifice of Jesus
Vivos en Cristo, Page 383

Summarize the paragraph, stressing that Jesus interpreted the Law in a new way.

Direct your child to find Matthew 17:1-8 in your Bible.



Ask your child to read the Scripture.

Read the next paragraph explaining the Transfiguration. Have your child read the definition of **Transfiguration** in the Catholic Faith Words box. Have them make a vocabulary card for this term.

Discuss the reaction of the Apostles as shown in the artwork on the page.

Ask: How would you have reacted if you had been there that day? Share with your child how you would have felt.

Activity

Complete the Share Your Faith activity together. Affirm something your child is doing in your family that is living in right relationship. Share your struggle in doing what is right. Try to give a specific example. (*struggle with patience, with making time for doing things for others, etc.*)

Turn to Page 192,
Jesus Teaches
Vivos en Cristo, Page 385

Summarize the first paragraph, emphasizing that Jesus summed up the Law of Moses and the prophets.



Read the Scripture aloud together.



Do the gold-star activity.

Tell your child to read aloud the last two paragraphs on the page.

Ask your child to take four index cards and, on each card, write the Catholic Faith Words: **morality**, **Beatitudes**, **charity**, and **Precepts of the Church**.

Read aloud each of the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box without stating the actual Catholic Faith Word. Ask your child to find the index card that describes what you have just read.

Expand your discussion on the Beatitudes by having your child turn to page 316 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of their books.

Have your child silently read the two paragraphs.

Point out that many people in Jesus' day equated happiness with wealth, trouble-free living, and security. In fact, many people today still think the same way.

Turn to Page 193,
Freedom to Love
Vivos en Cristo, Page 387

Ask: Who can help us follow the true path to happiness? (the Holy Spirit)

Talk about the importance of the virtue of charity. Give your child an example of a time when you saw her/him act with charity and discuss the difference it made.

Read aloud the two paragraphs. Turn to page 317 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book for a list of the Precepts of the Church.

Activity

As you explain the directions for the activity, draw a sample word map (the same as the one pictured in the activity), on a piece of paper. In the center circle, write the name of someone who is a Christian that your child knows. Around the person's name, write words that describe his/her Christ-like qualities. Once your child sees how it is done, have him/her complete the activity using a person of their choice.

Turn to Page 194,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 389

Parents, Consider This: *Were you challenged by the lines in your child's text, "many people in Jesus' day equated happiness with trouble-free lives, security, and wealth"? In many ways, things haven't changed much in two thousand years. It is so easy for our thinking, and thus our actions, to become disordered. The Great Commandment and the Precepts of the Church help us to keep our hearts centered in the love that is offered to us in Jesus. They give us the capacity to understand what our loving response must be. Guiding your child to make decisions based on God's laws will set her/him on the true path of happiness in this life and the next.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Ask: What does it mean to keep the Great Commandment?

Introduce the list of suggestions for living the Great Commandment. Read aloud the first line of each of the three sections, and have your child read aloud the suggestions.

Use these sections to discuss how these choices will bring happiness. Tell your child that his/her happiness is your deepest desire for him/her. Reinforce that you believe this is the path to happiness in this world and the next.

Listen to the song "The Great Commandment," on the *Songs of Scripture* CD, Track 20.

Turn to Page 195,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 391

Read the paragraph about Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Discuss which Beatitude you find easiest to live.

Activity

Both you and your child discuss and complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 197,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 395

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Act of Love (see Page 325), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.