

YEAR 5 - LESSON 5 - CATECHIST GUIDE WK. 1



CALLED TO LOVE: THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE IN CHRIST

TOPIC: The Gift of the Law and the Call to Love God Above All

Old Law as Preparation for the Gospel - The Twofold Commandment of Love -
The Greatest Commandment - The First Three Commandments

REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
no. 1964

SACRED SCRIPTURE

DT 6:4-5, LV 19:18,
EX 20, MT 22:34-40

CREED

nos.

62,
68-69,
72,
577-
82,
592

LITURGY

nos.

1067,
1079,
1081

LIFE

nos.

1949-
86,
2052-
2195

PRAYER

nos.

2574-
77,
2745,
2779-
93,
2822-
27

GOAL(S):

- Families will reflect on the mercy of God the Father in Sacred Scripture, the gift of the law and the love for God above all.
- Families will pray a Lectio Divina, meditating on Moses' intimacy with God.
- Families will begin to prepare for the Epiphany Blessing during Week 2 (if the parish has not already facilitated the blessing).

OPENING PRAYER

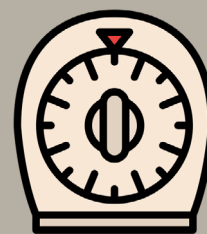
Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and
ask for Your blessing and protection.
We love You Lord Jesus with all our
hearts and we ask that You help our
family become more like the Holy
Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and
patient with one another. Give us all
the grace we need to become saints
and Your faithful disciples.
Amen.

ICE BREAKER

Speed Chatting

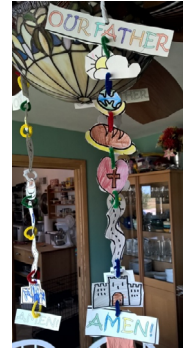
- Have families sit in two even rows, facing each other to form pairs.
- Set a timer for two minutes.
- Each person shares his/her favorite story about Jesus and explains why it's his/her favorite.
- When the time is up, people in one row each move one seat to the right (the person at the end of the line goes back around to the beginning).
- Continue until all pairs have had a chance to chat.

Adapted from www.weareteachers.com



MATERIALS

- Bibles
- **Ice Breaker:** Timer
- Blessed chalk & Holy Water (supplied by parish to be used during Week 2)
- [Teach us to pray](#) & [Lord's Prayer Mobile](#) by *Family God Time*
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils, hole punch, string or yarn



CONTENT

Review: Last month we learned about God's plan to save His family, and made a timeline of God's family, beginning with Adam and Eve, God's first children, all the way to the story of baby Moses. Though God's Chosen People made mistakes and sometimes made choices outside of God's order of love, if they kept turning their hearts back to God, our spiritual ancestors grew in their faith along the way. They carried God's love for His family along the journey that would eventually lead to Mary's Immaculate Conception, and through her to the birth of Jesus, our promised Savior!

Introduce the Topic:

Today we are going to continue learning more about Moses and the Order of Love that God the Father gave to His children, the Israelites, to live.

Hook:

Watch: [Story of Moses](#) | AI Animation (2 min)

Explain: When God first spoke to Moses about leading His Chosen People out of Egypt, they had been slaves for about 430 years. Many generations had come and gone, and the people had forgotten that God was their Father, and that they were His children, created in His image and likeness. As slaves in Egypt, they had been stripped of their freedoms, oppressed and told what to do for so long, that they only knew how to be slaves and not how to be a strong nation who knew that they were God's family. They did not obey God, and they used their new-found freedom to sin, hurting themselves and one another.

But like the loving and wise Father that He is, through Moses, God taught and led them. He saved them from the Egyptians and other enemies that battled against them. He gave them food, water and clothing. However, they still didn't know how to treat one another or how to work together. They needed to be formed into a family that would love God and one another. They needed laws to follow because they were going to become a new nation. So, God began by leading them to Mount Sinai.

Invite families to open their bibles and read: **Exodus 19:1-11**

Watch: [Moses given the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai](#) (3 min)

or

Read: **Exodus 19:16-21** (families can also read along in their bibles as the video plays)

Ask: Why would God appear to His children in such a frightening way?

Answer: Because even though God loved them, He also knew they were unruly and had not been taught right from wrong. They were children who needed to know the fear of the Lord, meaning they needed to have respect for God's power. Moses tried to explain to them that God loved them and was only trying to get them to obey His Order of Love for them, as a good father would, to keep them from going astray and hurting themselves, **"Do not be afraid, for God has come to you only to test you and put his fear upon you, lest you should sin."** Ex 20:20

God was loving and firm with His Chosen People in the same way that a parent would be to keep his/her toddler from touching something hot and injuring himself.

The Lord then made a covenant with the people. They were to keep His Laws and He would send His angel to protect and lead them. God promised them good health, happy families and a land of their own. In return, they would be His children and love and obey Him as their Father. Then God called Moses to come up the mountain where He would give Moses two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them.

Watch: [The Golden Calf](#) | Bible Story | LifeKids (2 min)

LECTIO DIVINA

Ask all the family members to find a comfortable place to sit together as a small group.

Explain: God was very angry with the Israelites and told them that He would not be traveling with them to the Promised Land because they had chosen to worship the golden calf instead of their Heavenly Father who had rescued them from the slavery to the Egyptians.

I am going to ask you to quietly relax as I say a prayer and then continue to read the story of *Moses' Intimacy with God* from Sacred Scripture.

When I have finished reading, we will sit in silence for a minute and think about what God is saying to us through this story.

Prayer: Dear God, Our Father, as we read and think about the story of Your love for Your Chosen People, we ask the Holy Spirit to come and speak to the hearts of all here, from the oldest to the youngest. Reveal to us Your Heart of love for us, Your children.

Calmly Read **Exodus 33:7-23 & 34:1-4**

Wait at least 30 seconds in silence.

Explain: Now I am inviting each member of your family to share privately (within your family) about what stood out to him/her.

Share Guidelines:

- Respectfully listening to each family member as he/she is sharing his/her reflection is very important.
- Avoid interrupting or even correcting what another is saying (we're looking to listen, not critique).
- When each family member has had an opportunity to share, please wait quietly for the other families to finish while we wait for the other families to finish. Give families time to share privately

Explain: As much as Moses wanted to see God, God wanted to be seen by Moses even more! God wants to be as close to His children as He possibly can because He is our Father and He loves us. Sometimes our earthly fathers fall short and do not love as they should, but this is never true of God the Father. He created us for love, for God Himself is love!

Ask: What are some words that would describe the Heart of God the Father for His children? What are some characteristics of God from this story?
(Take answers)

Explain: This is how God describes Himself to us in [Exodus 34:5-7](#)...

Read:

"Having come down in a cloud, the Lord stood with him there and proclaimed his name, 'Lord'.

Thus the Lord passed before him and cried out,

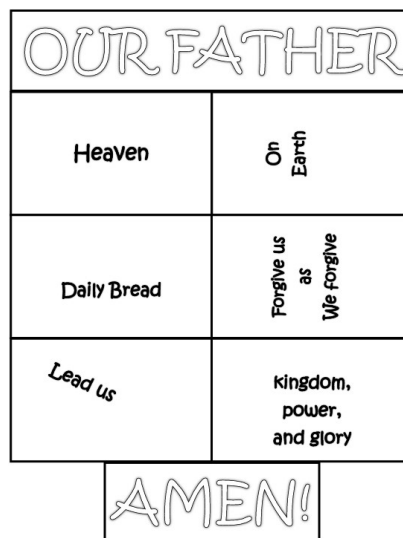
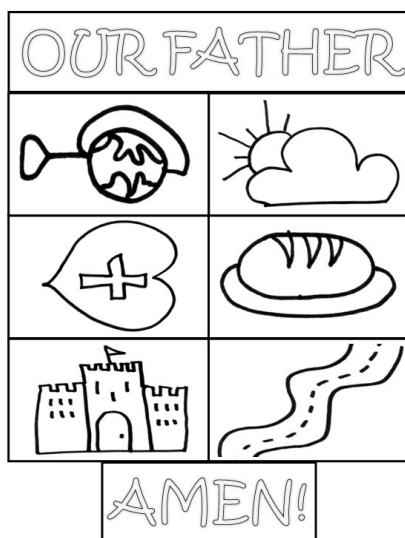
'The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity, continuing his kindness for a thousand generations, and forgiving wickedness and crime and sin...'"

Ask: What words from this verse describing God the Father stand out to you?
(Take answers)

Explain: This is the loving Father about whom Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer. He still is our Father, who loves, forgives, and provides for us in our every need.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

[Lord's Prayer Mobile](#) by Family God Time



MISSION ACTIVITY

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

Second, Explain Activity

Your Family At-Home Mission is to:

- i. Watch the videos about the Ten Commandments
- ii. Gather around your Home Altar and say the Lord's Prayer together as a family. Keep in mind that you are praying with Jesus!
- iii. Then, together as a family, mark the mantle of your front door with chalk (blessed, if possible) and pray the Family Epiphany Blessing. Be ready to share your Family Epiphany Blessing experience, as well as your front door mantle (take a picture) at Week 3's gathering of families. (Family Epiphany Blessing adapted from *Catholic Digest*)

Last, Model for Families:

- i. Show families how you marked your own front door mantle with chalk. (Use a picture or video as necessary)
- ii. Share with the families your own experience of gathering to pray the Lord's Prayer with your family, remembering that God is your Father.

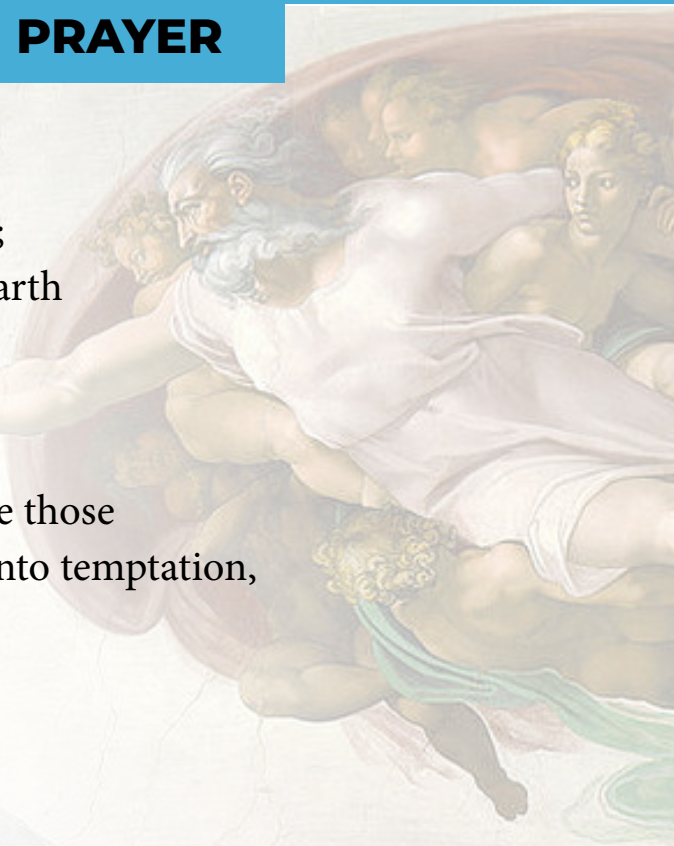
REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen



REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.



SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1964:

The Old Law is a *preparation for the Gospel*. “The Law is a pedagogy and a prophecy of things to come.” It prophesies and presages the work of liberation from sin which will be fulfilled in Christ...

Pope Francis, General Audience (August 11, 2021):

When Paul speaks about the Law, he is normally referring to the Mosaic Law, the law given by Moses, the Ten Commandments. It was in relationship to, it was on the way, it was a preparation, it was related with the Covenant that God had established with his people. According to various Old Testament texts, the Torah – that is, the Hebrew term used to indicate the Law – is the collection of all those prescriptions and norms the Israelites had to observe by virtue of the Covenant with God. An effective synthesis of what the Torah is can be found in this text of Deuteronomy, that says this: “The Lord will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (30:9-10). So, the observance of the Law guaranteed to the people the benefits of the Covenant and guaranteed a particular bond with God.... In making the Covenant with Israel, God offered them the Torah, the Law, so they could understand his will and live in justice. We have to think that at that time, a Law like this was necessary, it was a tremendous gift that God gave his people. Why? Because at that time paganism was everywhere, idolatry was everywhere and human behavior was a result of idolatry. Because of this, the great gift God gave his people is the law, so they could persevere.

