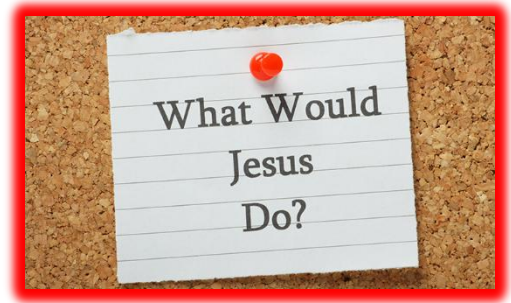


St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Kindergarten Faith Formation
Week 17 Lesson Plan



Unit 3 – How does Jesus Christ teach us to live a moral life?

EQ #2: *Why does Jesus want me to make good choices?*

CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Prepare your adult heart and mind by watching the following videos ahead of this lesson:
[BISHOP BARRON ON THE TEN COMMANDMENTS](#) and [DID CATHOLICS REWRITE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS?](#)

Important Note: Depending upon whether you come from the Catholic tradition or one of the Protestant denominations, you will be influenced by one of the two scriptural bases for God's Commands. To read both Biblical 'lists' for yourself, go to **Exodus 20:1-17** and **Deuteronomy 5:6-21** in the Old Testament. (This would also be a GREAT activity for older learners - i.e., to read and compare/contrast the two lists). The Catholic translations can be found on the USCCB website at [EXODUS](#) and [DEUTERONOMY](#) or in your family Bibles. Note that the Catholic ordering is based upon the Deuteronomy account.

Sometimes, Catholics are criticized by their Protestant brothers and sisters for the ordering of the Commandments that we use. Claims have been made that Catholicism has 'taken out' the reference to making idols or graven images in order to justify our 'worship' of sacred statues and images. Of course, that is *not* what the Church teaches. While we do venerate these religious items as they serve to point our hearts and minds towards Him, only God is deserving of our worship or adoration. When you read from Scripture, however, it is apparent that the command regarding idols has not been neglected in the Catholic rendition. Rather, the prohibition of worshipping idols is understood/affirmed in our First Commandment where God declares "*I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.*" This includes *any and all things* that might be wrongfully worshipped or placed before God in our lives. This can be ANYTHING (sports, money, electronics, success, statues, images, etc.). Be sure to keep this in mind as you instruct your learners in this lesson. This is a point of contention for

some Protestants against Catholicism and understanding this distinction and the reason for it can better equip your learners with the tools necessary to defend their faith now and as they grow older. As we know, it's not enough that our learners are taught what we believe, but more importantly, why we believe it. **Remember: If an activity or video is listing a prohibition against GRAVEN IMAGES OR IDOLS as the 2nd Commandment, it's not the Catholic ordering. Be sure to ADAPT any activities you may find to reflect the Catholic ordering.**

- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) posted at the end of this lesson plan and on the Catechist website at <https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist> for **KINDERGARTEN**. Keep these targets in mind as you prepare for and progress through the weekly lesson, making discussion points based upon these specific age-appropriate targets.
- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.
- Create a **[Prayer Table](#)** (or check out **[How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)**) in a special corner of the classroom. Keep a Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks. This gives them the sense that this is not just any book, but rather the Word of God.
- Reflect upon the Scriptural passage that today's lesson is based upon or extends. Incorporate your understanding of this passage into your teaching today with your learners.

Matthew 19: 18-19, Matthew 22: 36-40, Exodus 20: 1-17, Deuteronomy 5: 6-21

Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:

- A *Catholic* family or children's Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the **ST. MARY'S PRESS CHILDREN'S BIBLE**.

Each classroom is equipped with a set of Bibles which are located in the “CCE” storage cabinet or closet. Bring the Bibles out before your learners arrive and have them ready for use with each weekly lesson. Make a habit of always reading Scripture (even those passages in the student textbook) from the Bible, having students practice navigating their way around the Bible ‘library’ when appropriate developmentally.

- An electronic device with reliable internet access (i.e., an in-class mounted TV or TV cart if a video will be watched as part of the lesson)
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the “CCE” storage closet in your room and your class bin)
- Lesson GPS manipulatives (Resources not found in the classroom *will be placed in your class bin weekly by staff*)



BEGINNING THE LESSON with CIRCLE OF GRACE

Raise your hands above your head and then bring your outstretched arms slowly down. Extend your arms in front of you and then behind you; embrace all of the space around you then slowly reach down to your feet, knowing that God is in this space with you. This is your Circle of Grace. You are in it.

GUIDED PLAY to the SACRED (GPS)

Children learn through play. *Guided Play to the Sacred (GPS)* is a mode of play guided by the catechist to lead children to the Sacred, to God. Many of our kindergarteners and some older children are not reading ready. *Call to Faith* textbook and *Guided Play to the Sacred (GPS)* together are the core of the weekly lesson. This is the compass that guides the lesson in a way in which the children can interact. Further activities such as videos, coloring sheet, crafts and more can also be included in the lesson.

Today's lesson will convey **Call to Faith, Chapter 14: Good Choices (p.119–122)**. As Catechist, your role is to help children understand the weekly lesson. You can convey the content of the *Call to Faith* textbook in a variety of creative ways that are appropriate and effective for your learners.

- Share today's Essential Question: *Why does Jesus want me to make good choices?*
- Read *Tanya's Choice* (*Call to Faith* p.119) and have the children share their thoughts on the questions posed:
 - What should Tanya do?
 - What other rules help keep you safe?
- Read *Help with Choices* (*Call to Faith*, p.120) and ask questions. Then, have the children complete the activity.
 - Who did God send to help us stay close to Him?
 - Who helps people choose to do good things?
 - Good choices show love for whom?
- Begin *Guided Play to the Sacred (GPS)* using the *Ten Commandments Nesting Blocks* playset.
- Place the fully 'nested' blocks in the center of your lesson space. Only the largest block (Commandment 1) should be visible to your learners.
- Read *God Gives His People the Ten Commandments* (*The Saint Mary's Press Catholic Children's Bible*, pg. 132) located in the classroom. As you read the passage from Exodus 20, pull out the corresponding nesting block for each commandment, stacking one on top of the other (or side by side) for the children to see.
- Discuss "rules" and why we have them (*The Saint Mary's Press Catholic Children's Bible*, pg. 133, "Understand It!"). Invite the children to consider:
 - Why did God give us rules?
 - Who do we show love for by obeying God's rules?
- **Re-nest the blocks.** Read *God's Rules* (*Call to Faith*, p.121). Then, invite the children to take turns participating by pulling out the nesting blocks in order. Guide them in this activity, by

- Read *God's Rules Help* (Call to Faith, p. 122) and have the children complete the activity.
- End today's lesson by praying the *Thanking Prayer* (Call to Faith p. 123) together.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

- ## CONCLUDING THE LESSON

Invite the children to answer the question so as to assess their understanding of the lesson.

CLOSING PRAYER

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Want to extend your lesson in class or at home about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Catechist's discretion, if desired:

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