

What impact do God's commands have on the way I live in the world?

RESPECT

An Edge Night on the Seventh Commandment

LEADER OVERVIEW

Respect can be defined as to consider something or someone worthy of high regard or to refrain from interfering with, and something or someone you have reverence to.

Respect for others requires temperance in acquiring goods, as well as justice and solidarity in giving to those in need. Every person has the right to own private property that has been attained in a just way but at the same time, "the goods of creation are destined for the whole human race." Those who own property, or goods, are stewards of providence with the unique task of making that which is owned "fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all his family." (CCC 2401-2407)

The seventh commandment — you shall not steal — upholds this ideal of ownership and condemns any form of theft, which is the taking of another's property without their permission. It also requires that, within society, all just promises and contracts be kept. In addition, it outlines that one should not partake in gambling or unjust wagers and any enterprise that entails the selling of human beings is gravely evil. Interestingly, the seventh commandment includes showing respect toward and just treatment of all of God's creatures, which includes using them for food, clothing, or as animal companions. At the same time, it condemns the use of unjust amounts of money on animals or when we "direct to them the affection due only to persons." (CCC 2408-2418)

While the Church and the seventh commandment provide guidelines for proper use of goods, the Church only gives input on social matters when the fundamental rights of the person or the salvation of souls require it. But in all matters, the Church strives to "inspire right attitudes with respect to earthly goods and in socio-economic relationships." The Church's social teachings provide criteria for judgment and guidelines for action, and always upholds that the development of the economy should provide for the means of human beings and should be ordered first toward the human community and not to profit or multiplication of goods. The Church also encourages, for the sake of humanity, that steps are made on an international level to fix the gap between nations and resources. Rich countries have the grave moral responsibility to aid in the development of countries who have fewer means and are prevented from growth for various reasons. The Church upholds that men and women can be sanctified by their work, and it is their duty to make use of their talents to contribute to society. At the same time, employers should ensure that men and women can enjoy the rewards of their hard work, have access to work, and receive a just wage. (CCC 2419-2439)

In following this commandment, one should be inspired to help and love the poor — not just those who are materially poor, but also those who are culturally and spiritually poor. The preferential love of the poor and works of mercy call us to aid those in need. In all ways, "God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor." The seventh commandment encompasses so much more than not stealing. In properly living out this commandment, we can make an impact on society at large. (CCC 2443-2449)

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EDGE NIGHT OVERVIEW

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the youth to understand the seventh commandment, particularly the way it shows us how to properly acquire material goods and how to use them for our own good and the good of others.

SUMMARY

The Edge Night begins with a Gather game where the youth compete for various items. The Proclaim teaches the youth about the seventh commandment, specifically how it calls them to have a proper attitude toward and use of material goods. During the Break, the youth discuss what is of greatest value to them and how they can share it with others. The Send gives the youth an opportunity to reflect with Scripture and consider how God is speaking to them through His Word.

MAIN IDEAS

- Everyone has the right to own personal property, but the seventh commandment warns us to use what we have for good and not to steal other people's belongings.
- We are called to use what we own, first and foremost, for the good of human beings, most especially the poor, and for the betterment of society.
- Learning how to be generous and respect the property of others will help us grow in virtue and serve our neighbor as Christ asks us to.

ENVIRONMENT

Add to the basic environment by posting the word "respect," along with a simple definition like, "how you feel about and treat someone," at the front of the room.



MEDIA

Edge Video Support March 2016: "In Color" (lifeteen.com)

Edge Video Support March 2014: "Feeding the Hungry" (lifeteen.com)



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:3, 25:34-40; Luke 6:38, 18:22, 19:1-10; Ephesians 4:28; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 6:10



CATECHISM

2401-2409, 2418-2434, 2443-2449

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EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Weekly Challenge Follow Up (5 min)

Welcome the youth, introduce any youth there for the first time, and begin in prayer. Ask the youth to raise their hands if they completed the weekly challenge and then ask a few volunteers to share one way they were a gift of self to someone else and one way someone else was a gift of self to them last week.

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

Give a brief overview of the topic of the Edge Night, using the following as an example:

Have any of you ever tried to borrow or take something from one of your siblings without them noticing? (Allow a few youth to respond.) Or do any of you have an older sibling who you respect and admire so much that you would never even think of trying to do something like that? (Allow a few youth to respond or share a story of your own about a similar situation.) This week at Edge, we will be looking at the seventh commandment, which calls us to not steal. Even more so, this commandment calls us to respect others, to respect their possessions, to learn how to use our resources wisely, and to help those who are in need. Following this commandment will help us learn how to respect others and what they own, which will help us build better relationships.

Steal the Bacon (20 min)

This game is played in a large group.

1. Instruct the youth to find a partner.
1. Have the pairs stand across from each other, creating two long lines that face each other and are a few feet apart.
2. One side is team A, while the other side is team B.
3. Once all of the youth are standing in line, number the pairs.
4. In between the two lines, place a medium-sized object such as a water bottle, hat, or shoe.
5. Call out a number that is assigned to one of the pairs to begin the game.
6. The pair whose number is called run to the middle and try to grab the object. The goal is for one of the youth to grab the object and bring it back to their team without the other person tagging them.
7. If the youth gets the item back to their team, their team receives a point.
8. If the youth gets tagged, the other team receives a point.
9. If there is a standoff and neither youth are grabbing the item, call out another number and have those youth join in.
10. Play the game until one team has five points, or for as long as time allows.



STEP IT UP

Play with actual bacon, placing a new strip of bacon in the center each round. The youth who receives the point for his or her team, either by getting the bacon back to the team or by tagging his or her opponent, gets to eat the bacon.

PROCLAIM

“Respect” Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 46 to 48.

BREAK

6th Grade:

- The foundational point of social justice and Catholic Social Teaching is: that every human life has eternal value. Why is this so important? What cultural or societal sins try and diminish this value? Where does the value come from? (Every person is created and share in the image and likeness of God)
- Jesus made a special point of caring for the sick, lonely, and isolated in ancient Israel. We are called to work in justice and charity for the least in our community and society. Who are the least? What can we do to help them?
- We recognize that all we have and all we are is a gift from God. In thanksgiving we are called to respond by sharing our time, talent, and treasure. What does this mean for you as a 6th grader?

7th Grade:

- God calls each individual person in a unique way to work for the common good. What is the common good and how do you feel you can contribute to it? (Common good – the social conditions that allow people as a group or individuals to reach their fulfillment in life / things like everyone having enough food to eat, no need to immigrate because everyone is happy & free, etc.)
- What is the definition of the world service? Why is service important? How can you serve others as a 7th grader?
- Some people believe the Church should not be “political” or have positions on issues like abortion, minimum wage, economics, etc. Why does the Church speak on these issues? (We follow Jesus’ examples of living in a way that promotes gospel values and the good of all people. The Church speaks because she is our guide and teacher to help us know and recognize this call to live)

8th Grade:

- All human life from conception to natural death deserves protection; Catholics express this as a “seamless garment” of life. Catholics are called to oppose such inherently evil acts as abortion and euthanasia and to protect against threats to the dignity of the human person and human life, such as, poverty, suicide, and the death penalty. Why do you think the idea and gift of life is so sacred and important to the Church? (All other issues and things flow from this. Mother Teresa said, “If we can accept that a mother can kill her own child, how can we tell others not to kill, to share food, or to respect others.”)
- One of the greatest tools the Church has are the corporal works of mercy - actions that help one’s neighbor with their bodily and spiritual needs. These works are motivated by charity which show love of God and neighbor. What are the corporal works of mercy and how can we live them out as 8th graders? (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead)

- Christians are called to work for peace and justice for all people in society; working always for the common good of people. Because God created all people to live in community, the Church, following the teachings of Jesus, calls Christians to reach out to those in need, such as persons with disabilities, the poor, the homeless, the lonely and the oppressed. Who are our neighbors in need, what do they need, and how can we help?

Valued (15 min)

This activity is done in small groups.

1. Give each small group a large sheet of paper and markers.
2. Instruct the youth to individually write what material objects are of greatest value to them.
3. Give them two minutes to write down as many material items they can think of.
4. As a small group, look at all of the items they wrote down and point out ones that are similar, as well as those that are different.
5. Choose three objects that are most similar, or that they all agree are of greatest value, and then use the following question for discussion:
 - How can you share this object with others, or how can you use this item to bring about good in the world?

After the discussion, bring the youth back to the large group, but have them sit with their small groups. Have each small group present what was of greatest value to them and how they can share it with others.

SEND

The Quest to Understand (20 min)

Introduce the time of prayer, using the following as an example:

The Christian life is not always easy to understand. Jesus often asks of us things that may not make sense at first. One of the best ways we can come to better understand what it looks like to follow Jesus is to meditate on Scripture. When we meditate, we can put ourselves into the story or listen for words that stand out to us. The Word of God is powerful; God will use it to talk to you and help you better understand what He is asking of you. (CCC 2705-2708)

Briefly explain that you will read the same Scripture story a few times and each time the youth will be prompted to reflect on the story in a different way. Project a slide with the following instructions:

1. Listen to the words that are being read.
2. Picture the scene as it is read. Is it hot or cold out? What does the scenery around you look like? What does it smell like? Are there things you can touch or feel?
3. While the passage is read a second time, put yourself in the story as a specific character. Who are you?
4. Listen for specific words or phrases that stand out to you as the story is read a final time. What is God trying to say to you?

Read Luke 14:12-14 three times and then ask the youth to reflect on the Scripture passage using the provided questions. At the end of the reflection, instruct the youth to share their answers with one member of their small group. Gather the youth back to the small group and close by asking any youth who are willing to share what they think God is trying to tell them through the Scripture passage. Draw the youth's attention to the idea of giving without expecting anything in return and why they think that God would want them to give in that way.

Bring the youth back to the large group and end in prayer. Following the prayer, give the youth their weekly challenge.

Weekly Challenge: Go through your possessions this week. Choose one item each day that you can donate to an organization that helps those who are in need.



SUGGESTIONS

If possible, bring the youth into the church or an adoration chapel for the Send.

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TEACHING GUIDE

GETTING STARTED

To cover the basic information, follow along and craft the talk based off of the bullet points. If the youth are ready to take it deeper, incorporate a few of the Going Deeper call out boxes, picking the ones the youth would relate to the most.



GOING DEEPER

Check inside these boxes for tips and ideas on how to take your youth a little deeper with the Proclaim.

OWNERSHIP

- *Ask the youth to share what they own, things they bought with money they earned.*
- As a middle schooler, you may not have many things you personally own since you still live under the care of others and they provide most things for you. (CCC 2401-2403)
- But, even still, you are called to use what you have for the good of others. This means not being selfish or ungrateful with your possessions and using them in a way that helps other people. (CCC 2404-2406)
- *Give the youth a few practical ideas on how to do this, such as sharing their clothes with a sibling or thanking their parents when they give them something.*
- By doing this, you are showing respect toward the other people in your life and are following the seventh commandment.
- Stealing — taking something that someone else owns without their permission or rightfully buying it — goes directly against the seventh commandment. It also hurts your relationship with the person or breaks down, even in small things, the society in which you live. (CCC 2408-2409, 2412)
- *Give the youth some examples of what would be considered stealing, such as taking something from a store without purchasing it, taking something from a family member without permission, or watching movies and listening to music they did not pay for.*



GOING DEEPER

Some Hispanic/Latino youth might be tempted to steal in order to provide for their younger siblings or even their parents, in a Robin Hood way of things. Remind the youth that stealing is always contrary to this commandment, even when they are stealing for someone else.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

- We are a part of something that is bigger than ourselves. We live in families and communities, and are a part of society.
- Our actions can hurt others and affect the communities we are a part of in a big way, even if they seem small or insignificant in the moment.
- Our actions can also hurt ourselves. Although you may not get caught stealing gum from the grocery store, it reflects on your character and creates habits of sinful behavior that harm you spiritually, whether you think it does or not.
- The seventh commandment — thou shall not steal — helps us learn how to respect others and their possessions, as well as how to use what we own to help one another.



GOING DEEPER

Explain that this commandment also enters into the realm of how we treat our pets and the attention we give them, mainly that we should not give affection to pets that is only due to humans. (CCC 2418)

- While it may seem like what we do on a small scale will not affect society at large, it does and as such, it is important to learn how to have the right attitude toward material possessions. (CCC 2419-2425)
- We should, first and foremost, be concerned about other people, not solely about ourselves and the things we want. (CCC 2426)
- As you aspire and dream of what you will one day do, it is important to remember that it is your duty to make use of your talents in a way that better society. You should not pursue a career simply because you will earn a lot of money and have cool things. (CCC 2427-2436)



GOING DEEPER

Discuss how nations should work to use their resources to give aid to those in need; rich countries have the grave moral responsibility to help those who have fewer means and are prevented from growth due to various reasons. (CCC 2437-2439)

FOR YOU/FROM YOU

- It is not bad to have possessions, nor is it bad to have money. What is most important is how we use what has been given to us — big or small — and the type of person we are.
- We should want for each other to be taken care of, to have enough, and to know that someone cares.
- Whichever side you find yourself on — whether your family is well-off or struggling — there should be no division among you and rather, unity as you all help each other.



GOING DEEPER

Discuss that we all have the same dignity and everyone deserves respect; we must work to fight the mentality that how much money you have or what you own makes you better than someone else.

- As the human race, we are all responsible for each other. God asks us to care for one another, most especially the poor. (CCC 2443)
- This care for the poor is not only for those who are materially poor, but also for those who are spiritually poor. (CCC2444-2449)
- *Share how Jesus cared for those who were both physically poor and those who were spiritually poor. He called many to give what they had to the poor, but He also cared for those who were rich but spiritually poor. (Luke 18:22, 19:1-10)*
- Learning how to be generous and respect other people's property will help you grow in virtue and serve your neighbor as Christ asks you to.
- The seventh commandment — you shall not steal — is about so much more than simply not stealing. It is about truly taking care of each other and all of our needs.