

Depend on God

Jesus taught the crowds who followed him about prayer. During his Sermon on the Mount, he said,

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

MATTHEW 7:7-8

What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these faith concepts?

the Ten Commandments

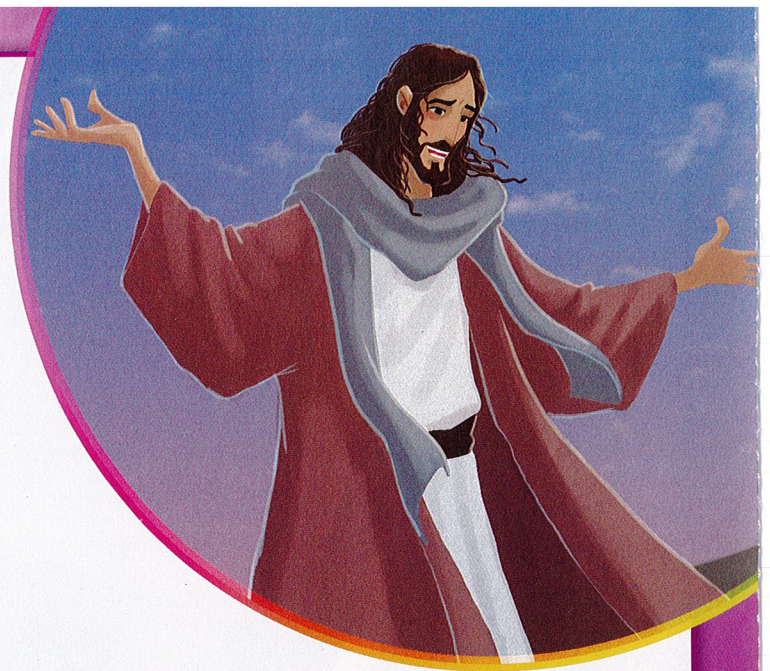
temperance

hope

Faith Terms to Know

Put an X next to the faith terms you know.
Put a ? next to faith terms you need to learn more about.

- _____ idolatry
- _____ worship
- _____ culture of life
- _____ culture of death
- _____ almsgiving
- _____ stewardship
- _____ adoration
- _____ contemplation



The Bible

What do you know about Jesus' teaching on the Lord's Prayer?

The Church

What Saint or organization of the Church would you like to learn more about?

Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about worshipping God?

Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ►




EXPLORE the sacred space in your parish to nurture the gift of piety.



DISCOVER that the first three Commandments teach us to love God.



DECIDE how you will keep God above all else in your life.



Love of God

? Do you think laws are necessary for people to be happy? Why or why not?

Laws, decrees, and precepts are guidelines to help us keep what is important in life a priority. This psalm attributes God as the source of all that is truly important:

*The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.*

*The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple.*

*The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart.*

PSALM 19:8-9

? How are God's Laws "refreshing" to the soul? How can you tell that a person places God first in his or her life?



Disciple Power

Piety


When we worship God, we exercise the gift of piety. Piety is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It helps us give devotion to God. The attitudes of reverence and respect accompany piety and pious activity.

THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

The Collection at Mass

When we take part in the celebration at Mass, we show our love both for God and for others. The collection of money at Mass is one sign of that love. This ancient tradition of the Church is one way we generously show our thanks to God and provide for the material needs of the Church.

From the earliest days of the Church, wealthy people gave money to the Church. Others brought cheese, hand-woven cloth, grain, animals, vegetables, bread, and other goods. After gathering at the entrance of the church, they walked in procession to an area near the altar where they left their gifts. After the celebration of the Mass concluded, these gifts were brought and shared with people in need. In some countries of the world today, that custom is still followed.

 In what ways does the Sunday collection at Mass show love for God?



Precepts of the Lord

God gave us Commandments to remind us what is of most important in life. The first three Commandments teach us ways that we are to love the Lord our God with our whole heart, soul, and mind (see Matthew 22:37). God gave his Commandments to Moses, and this was the first and most important of all:

I, the LORD, am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me.
EXODUS 20:2-3

The First Commandment

This First Commandment teaches us that we are to **worship** only God. We are to place our faith and hope in God and to love him above all else. Atheism, or denying the existence of God, is a sin against the First Commandment. This Commandment also warns us about **idolatry**. Idols are those people or things that we place before God. Idols in our lives could be things like power, fame, material possessions, money, or even a person. We all know how easy it is to love these things to excess and allow them to take over our lives.

Our Top Priority

There are many things in life that give us a feeling of great pleasure and excitement, especially when they place us in the center of life. Sometimes they may be the newest gadget, the latest trend, or the desire to be the “star” of a team. In and of themselves, they are not bad. But when they become our top priority in life, we worship them or ourselves as an idol. Idols consume our time and energy, enslaving us. When God is our top priority, we become liberated, truly free to seek happiness.

FAITH FOCUS

How do the first three Commandments guide us to love God above all else?

FAITH VOCABULARY

idolatry

This is worshiping someone or a creature or thing (money, pleasure, power, etc.) instead of God the Creator.

worship

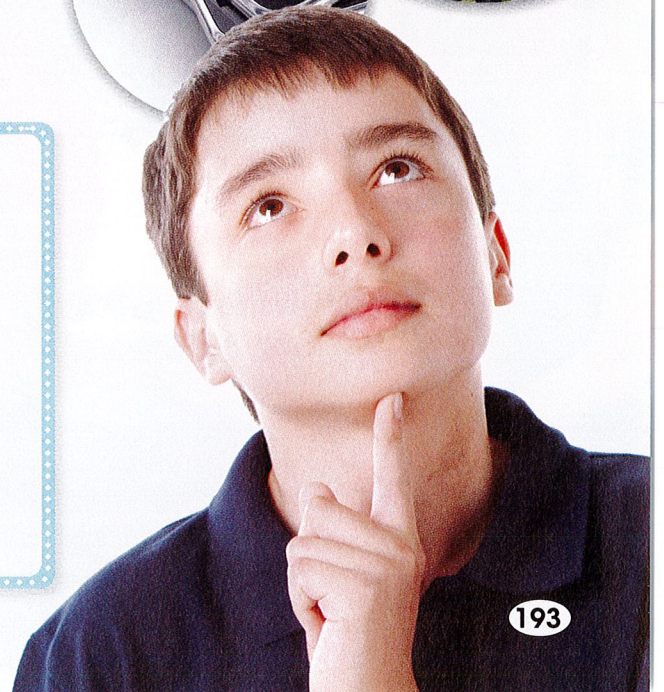
Honor and respect we give to God above all else; faith in, hope in, and love for God above all else.



Activity

Work with a small group. Create a list of all the false idols that a person your age might worship. Then think of some practical steps people could take to redirect themselves toward God.

Idols	Solutions
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____





Faith-Filled People

Moses

Moses believed in God above all else. While Moses was on Mount Sinai, the people persuaded Aaron, the brother of Moses, to gather and melt all the gold the people had to create a golden calf. Aaron and the people worshiped this golden calf as the god who freed them from Egypt. Hearing the people dancing and singing, Moses came down from Sinai. He took the golden calf and threw it into a fire (read Exodus 32).

The Second Commandment

As we prioritize things in our lives, we seek to order our lives with the hope that life becomes not just manageable but enjoyable. Often the words we use speak volumes about our attitude toward life.

You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain.
EXODUS 20:7

The Second Commandment teaches us that we are to use the name of God and the names of Jesus, Mary, and the Saints reverently and respectfully. Blasphemy is the use of the names of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the Saints in an offensive way. In fact, all the words we use and our intent behind their use speak to the condition of our hearts.

This Commandment also teaches that we are to take an oath only when it is necessary, as in a court of law. Whenever we call God as our witness, we must tell the truth. To use the name of God or Jesus when we are angry, to show off, or to casually say “I swear to God” is against the Second Commandment.

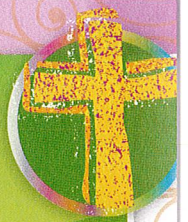
The Power of Words

Each of us knows that our words do affect others, not just because of how we say them but how we use them. We can use words to praise, honoring that which is sacred such as God and one another. We can also use words to curse, hurting others with our profanity. Some words evoke such an impact when used that, regardless of our intention, they are powerful. The name of God and Jesus Christ are examples of powerful and sacred words. God, above all, deserves our respect and worship.

? What influences in the world around you show disrespect for the names of God and Jesus? What can you do to stand up to them?



Catholics Believe



Sins Against God

God is due our honor and praise. When we participate in activities that place our trust not in God, we commit sins against God. Superstition and the occult are such practices that reject faith in God (see CCC 2110–2122).

The Third Commandment

In the Old Testament, God rested from the work of creation on the seventh day, or the Sabbath. He commanded his people to do the same:

Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD, your God. **EXODUS 20:8–10**

The Sabbath is to be set aside from all the other days of the week as the Lord's Day.

Sunday is the Lord's Day for Christians. It is the day on which the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead. It is the first day of the new creation of the world in Christ. It is the day on which we focus on keeping God first in our lives.

Sunday is to be kept as the most important holy day of obligation. Catholics have the obligation to take part in Mass on Sunday and on other holy days of obligation. We rest from all work that is not necessary. We are to use Sunday as the day to help us keep our hearts and minds focused on God. If we start our week with God first in our hearts and minds, then the work we do for the rest of the week can be out of love for him and in his honor.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Activity

Keeping It Holy

Name some of the ways that you can keep the Lord's Day holy. Log them here. How can you keep Sunday for God?



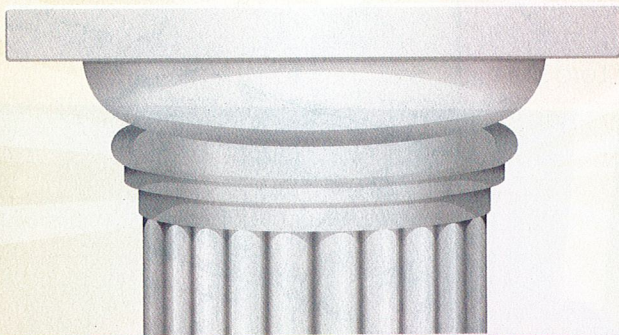
I FOLLOW JESUS

The Holy Spirit is always inviting you to place your faith, hope, and love in the Holy Trinity above all else. This may not always be easy to do. Recognize the temptations and idols in your life that make it difficult to keep God first. Use the gift of piety to help you keep God above all else.

KEEPING GOD FIRST

Think of the obstacles to keeping God first that you brainstormed on page 193. Which of these things is the greatest temptation for you. Draw it on the pedestal. Then write how you can overcome that obstacle.

I can overcome this obstacle . . .



MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will make God my top priority in my life. I will



Pray, "Lord, you are above all else in my life. Help me to keep you first in my heart so that all I do and say gives honor and praise to you. Amen."

Chapter Review

Write *First*, *Second*, or *Third* beside the phrase that best describes that Commandment.

1. _____ We call God to be our witness to the truth of what we are saying.
2. _____ We worship only God.
3. _____ Catholics take part in Mass on Sunday.
4. _____ We speak the name of God reverently and respectfully.
5. _____ We love God above all else.

Act of Love

There are many traditional prayers that young people are asked to memorize. If you do not already know this prayer, memorize it so that you will always remember your love of God. Pray it now with your class.

**O my God, I love you above all things,
with my whole heart and soul,
because you are all good and worthy of all my love.
I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you.
I forgive all who have injured me,
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.**

**"Bless the LORD, my soul;
all my being, bless his holy name!"**

Psalm 103:1

▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. The First Commandment teaches us to worship only God and to believe in, hope in, and love God above all else.
2. The Second Commandment teaches us to use the name of God reverently and respectfully.
3. The Third Commandment teaches us to keep the Lord's Day as a holy day, a day set aside for God. Sunday is the Lord's Day for Christians.



With My Family

This Week ...

In **Chapter 21**, "Love of God," your child learned:

- ▶ The First Commandment teaches us that we are to worship only God. We are to believe in, hope in, and love God above all else. God alone is and should always be at the center of our lives.
- ▶ The Second Commandment teaches us that we are to honor the name of God. We are to speak the name of God reverently and respectfully.
- ▶ The Third Commandment teaches us that we are to set aside one day each week as the Lord's Day. It is the most important holy day of obligation. On Sundays, Catholics have the obligation to take part in the Mass. We are to avoid all work that prevents us from keeping God as the center of our lives.
- ▶ Exercising the gift of piety is a way we can make God our top priority in life.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2083–2195, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 337–371.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Exodus 20:1–17. Emphasize that we give glory to God when we live the Ten Commandments.

We Live as Disciples

The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Choose one thing this week that your family can do together to show that God is the top priority in your lives.
- ▶ Visit or call someone who is important to the family so that you can honor God by loving others, especially if they were not present at Sunday Mass.

- ▶ Create table placemats proclaiming Sunday as the Lord's Day. Use these placemats at your Saturday evening and Sunday family meals.

Our Spiritual Journey

Fasting is a form of piety that Jesus emphasized (read Matthew 9:16–18). This is also an obligation for Catholics as a way to prepare ourselves to receive the Eucharist and to help us place God first in our lives.



For more ideas on ways that your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

www.BeMyDisciples.com