

We Follow the Ten Commandments



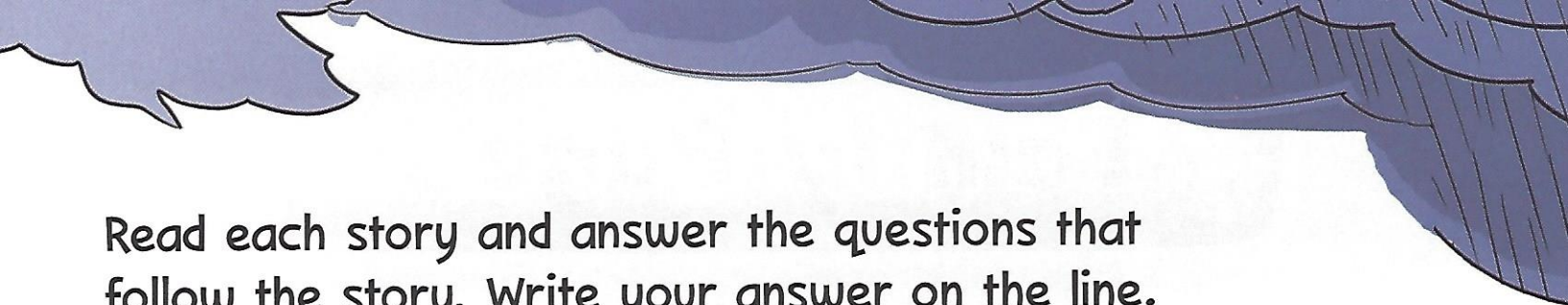
Prayer

God our Father, you are so good to us! You keep us safe and happy through the rules you give us to live by. Help us to follow these rules so that we can love you, ourselves, and others. Amen.

Using the Featured Story on page 132 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*, fill in the blanks with a word from the following list:

evil	Sabbath	worship	donkeys
generations	respect	steal	holy
accuse	house		

1. _____ no god but me.
2. I show my love to thousands of _____.
3. Do not use my name for _____ purposes.
4. Observe the _____ and keep it
_____.
5. _____ your father and your mother.
6. Do not _____.
7. Do not _____ anyone falsely.
8. Do not desire another man's _____; . . . his wife, his slaves, his cattle, his _____, or anything else that he owns.



Read each story and answer the questions that follow the story. Write your answer on the line.

1. Sam's mother had asked him not to throw balls in the house. One afternoon, Sam wanted to play with his dog. He grabbed a ball from the toy box and threw it to Buddy. The ball hit a lamp and knocked it to the floor. The lamp broke!

Did Sam commit a sin by throwing the ball? _____

Did Sam commit a sin by breaking the lamp? _____

2. Crissie had just come back from a birthday party. She was wearing her good party dress. She had been told to change clothes before going outside to play. But Tessa was coming over right now on her bike! Crissie ran outside. She got her bike and off they went.

Did Crissie commit a sin? _____

3. Darren was helping to set the table. His mom gave him the salad bowl. He was carrying it very carefully when he suddenly tripped over a shoe. The salad bowl went flying. And then it fell and broke!

Did Darren commit a sin? _____

Family Page



Background Focus

In the last session, we learned that Jesus expects that his disciples will keep his commandment of love. This commandment of love also includes following the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments, given to us by God out of love, articulate what is called “natural law”: an innate and universal understanding within human beings of what is right or wrong. Saint Thomas Aquinas summarized the first principle of the natural law as: “Good is to be done and pursued, and evil is to be avoided” (*Summa Theologiae* I-II, Q.94, A.2).

The Ten Commandments formed the basis of the governance of God’s people as they wandered in the desert and in the thousands of years since. The Ten Commandments are the backbone of society as we know it. This session helps the children to understand that God’s rules are given out of love, to help us to live safe and happy lives as his children and as loving brothers and sisters to one another.



Family Strategies

Many family rules are unwritten and sometimes even unspoken. Take time to articulate and write down current family rules. Include positive rules (“Give hugs”) as well as negative ones (“No devices at the dinner table”). Brainstorm together to suggest new rules that might be necessary for evolving situations. Acknowledge that sometimes rules may be personally inconvenient, but emphasize that observing rules helps make life easier and more pleasant for everyone in the family.

(The quotation on page 4 of this activity booklet is from *Summa Theologiae* I-II, question 94, found at www.newadvent.org/summa/2094.htm.)



Family Activities

- Look around your community with your child to find public displays of the Ten Commandments. These will most likely be found in churchyards or on the walls of churches. Some synagogues display the Ten Commandments on outside walls. Two stone tablets attached together is the usual symbol for the Ten Commandments.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 132 of *The Catholic Children’s Bible*, “God Gives His People the Ten Commandments” (Exodus 20:2–3,6–8,12–17).
- Watch the YouTube video “Moses The Ten Commandments” (3:04), by Steve Chan. If necessary, explain the “manna from the sky.” This is special food that God gave the people. Sometimes it is called “bread from heaven” and is considered a foretaste of the Eucharist.

Pray It!

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear God, thank you for giving us the Ten Commandments to help us to be safe and happy. Help us to follow our family rules out of true love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Savior. Amen.

