

Grade 4 - Chapter 3

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Small Steps

The Ten Commandments will be easier to understand if they are presented in smaller groups.

- Logical divisions are First through Third; Fourth, Fifth, and Eighth; Sixth and Ninth; and Seventh and Tenth.
- Each day, review a different group of Commandments. By week's end, the children will know all ten.

Additional Activity: Instant Sketches

Help the children focus on the details of this story.

- Ask one or more artistically inclined children to stand by the board or an easel with chart paper as you read the story.
- As items in the story are mentioned, ask the volunteer artists to make quick sketches of them.

Additional Activity: Children's Literature

Children may enjoy reading or listening to *A Mountain of Blintzes* by Barbara Diamond Goldin (Harcourt, Inc.). It tells the story of a family preparing for *Shavuot*, the Jewish holiday celebrating the day that Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Additional Activity: God's Plan—Scratch Art

Supplies:

- medium-weight white paper
- crayons (various colors, and lots of black)
- coins

Steps:

- Introduce the activity by saying: **The story of Joseph is a good reminder that when difficult and challenging changes happen in our lives, God's plan for peace and harmony is still there, even though we may not see it right away.**
- Distribute materials so that each child has a piece of paper, a coin, and access to crayons.
- Invite the children to color the paper with many different types of colors, designs, patterns, etc.
Note: make sure that the children push hard on the crayons to make the colors vibrant.
- Once the children are finished, have them color black over the top of their drawing. When the whole drawing is covered thick with black crayon, use a coin to draw a picture over the black. The coin will scratch off the black and reveal the colors underneath.
- Discuss as a group how this project illustrates how God's plan might still work even when there are changes and hard times in our lives.

Glossary Activity: Ten Commandments

Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are the summary of laws that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. They tell what is necessary in order to love God and others. Children can make bookmark reminders of the Ten Commandments to carry with them.

- Cut heavyweight paper into 2 1/4 - by 8 1/2 -inch strips.
- Have each child write one of the Ten Commandments on the paper and decorate it.
- Remind the children that God gave us the Ten Commandments to help us do his will and live in peace.

Parish Video Connection: Moses Parts the Red Sea

Once you've completed the Catechist Edition instruction on page 75, show this video to the children. (Note: Clip ends at 1:55.)

Ask: What do you think it felt like to witness the parting of the Red Sea?

YouTube Link: <http://youtu.be/OqCTq3EeDcY>