

# Grade 4 - Chapter 14

## Discover

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## Discover

### Catechist Edition Instruction

## Discover (1)

### Objectives

- Deepen their awareness of human life as sacred and a gift from God from the moment of conception until the time of natural death
- Recognize that all actions that respect and protect life uphold the Fifth Commandment

### All Human Life is Sacred

Ask: How do you respect life?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read aloud or summarize the introduction.

### Blessed Margaret of Castello

- Tell the children that they will read about a woman who endured many hardships, but devoted her life to helping others.
- Ask the children why someone might spend their life helping people who are sick and dying.
- Invite volunteers to take turns reading the biography.
- ★ Have the children highlight how Blessed Margaret showed respect for others.
- Invite volunteers to share what they highlighted.
- Blessed Margaret of Castello treated people with respect and human dignity. Refer to page 318 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section in the back of the Student Book to find out more about respecting the dignity of all people.

## Choose Life

Introduce this part of the lesson by reading aloud the paragraph.

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the definition of *sacred*.
- Have the children make a vocabulary card for *sacred*.

## Scripture

Ask a volunteer to stand and proclaim “The Choice.”

- *Ask:* What life-and-death decisions must people make daily? **Possible responses: to cross a street safely, to follow safety rules at home**

Have the children read silently the last paragraph to learn about why life is sacred.

► Music Option: Have the children sing, “God’s Good Rules,” downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

## Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Have the children work independently to complete the activity.
- Then have the children talk with a partner about how they can follow the Fifth Commandment.

## Quick Review

The Fifth Commandment says to respect and protect all human life. Human life is sacred because it comes from God.

## Discover (2)

### Objectives

- Identify actions that deliberately harm human life, including that of the unborn, the sick, and elderly, as grave sins
- Relate the Fifth Commandment to respect and care for our bodies

### Protect and Respect

*Ask:* How do you keep the Fifth Commandment?

- Write the children’s responses on the board or on chart paper.

Have the children read the three paragraphs.

- Discuss the meaning of the word *murder*.
- Have the children make a vocabulary card for *murder*.

### Respect for the Body

Write the word *life* on the board or on chart paper and circle it.

- Outside the circle write *smoking, drinking alcohol, not exercising, and eating junk food*. Explain that the words outside the circle are actions that harm life.
- Invite the children to name other actions that harm life. Add those to the chart.

Point out the photo.

- Ask: How are these children keeping the Fifth Commandment?

## **Avoid Anger**

Tell the children to read these two paragraphs to learn how the Fifth Commandment relates to anger, hatred and revenge.

## **Scripture**

Invite a child to proclaim “Love of Enemies.”

Discuss the question at the end of the Scripture story.

- Invite the children to share times when they have been able to avoid hatred or revenge, even when they were provoked.
- Remind the children that forgiveness is a way to show love to others, even to enemies.

## **Activity**

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity.

- Have the children fill in the missing letters.
- Provide time for the children to circle one life-giving action they will practice.
- ▶ Music Option: Have the children sing, “Loving Others,” downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

## **Quick Review**

The Fifth Commandment forbids harm to life because all human life is sacred. This means that humans must treat their bodies with respect.

## **Catechist Tips: Hatred Spreads**

The Scripture passage on page 203 warns us against hating people. It says we should actually love our neighbor. Read the passage to the children and talk about how hatred can begin with being unhappy with someone, or getting angry over something that's not very important. Explain how individuals becoming angry at each other have led to groups becoming angry at each other and even hating each other. It would even be possible for this anger and hatred to start a war between groups or nations. Ask the children to make up a story about how this could happen. Use a chalkboard or poster board to draw stick figures to illustrate the story.

## **Catechist Tips: Game—Giving Life**

Gather the children in a circle and tell them they are going to play a game about bringing life to others. They will do this by going around the circle and creating two sentences that show a way in which someone helped to bring life, joy, or happiness to someone else. Tell them that the first sentence they create should describe a need or situation. The second sentence should describe a way in which a fourth grader could bring life to the situation. You may wish to direct the sentences by suggesting a subject, such as loneliness, hurt by gossip, bullying, being sad because a friend moved away, or a pet died.

Have the first child begin the sentence by saying, "Once there was a..." Move clockwise and have each child add one word to the sentence to create a situation in which someone is in need physically, spiritually, or emotionally. When the situation is described, have the next child begin with the word. "Then..."

The child who ends the second sentence begins a new one with, "Once there was a..."

You may need to help children the first time around but as the game progresses the children will get it and come up with more elaborate descriptions and more creative events. The more rounds played the more fun it gets.

### **Glossary Activity: Sacred**

Distribute old magazines. Help the children understand how to treat life as *sacred*.

- Tell the children to look for pictures that show a *sacred* respect for life, such as building homes, eating healthful foods, and caring for those who are sick.
- Have the children make a collage on poster board.

### **Additional Activity: Respect for Body**

The children can learn more about treating their bodies with respect.

- Have groups prepare reports on the following topics: the food pyramid, exercise and rest, and avoiding alcohol and drugs.
- The children can present their findings in oral reports, posters, skits, or dioramas.

### **Additional Activity: Icons**

The children may enjoy developing icons.

- Show examples of "No Parking" or "No Smoking" icons or other common wordless signs.
- Challenge the children to take a phrase and create an icon for it.
- Have the children guess the meaning.

### **Additional Activity: Friendly Letters**

Point out to the children that they are writing friendly letters.

- Review the proper format for friendly letters.
- If time allows, compare the format of a friendly letter with that of a business letter. Discuss the differences.

### **Additional Activity: Responses to Anger**

Discuss ways to express anger.

- Everyone has a right to feelings but must express them appropriately.
- Suggest talking with others, engaging in physical activity, and retreating to a neutral area.
- The children may wish to make an advice book.

### **Additional Activity: Skit—Love your Enemies**

Organize the children into groups of three or four. Say, **Jesus asks us to treat our enemies the way we want to be treated, with love, kindness, and forgiveness. But when someone is mean to you, it can be hard to be nice to and forgive that person, right?**

Write the words Think and Create on the board or chart paper.

Say, **In your groups, your first job is to think of a situation that you have seen at school, at the playground, or somewhere else when someone acted mean toward someone else. Your second job is to create a short skit about what happened. But this skit should have a twist—instead of acting scared or upset, the person or people who are being hurt will respond with love, kindness, and forgiveness toward the one who is hurting them.**

Give the children time to create their skits, and then have them perform them for the class.

### **Additional Activity: Top Ten "DO List"**

Supplies:

- paper
- pencils

Remind the children that there is more to keeping the Fifth Commandment than not murdering someone. The Commandment is about respecting and valuing life. Distribute paper and pencils and instruct the children to work in pairs to create a top ten list of ways they can keep the Fifth Commandment this week. Tell them each statement must begin with the word "DO." When the lists are completed, invite volunteers to share.

### **Parish Video Connection: Dignity of Life**

Once you've completed the Catechist Edition instruction for page 201, play this video for the children.

Say: You can choose life each and every day by showing respect to all of God's children, including the young and old, the sick and well.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/CxhvKrdYEAw>

### **DISCLAIMER**