

Grade 4 - Chapter 15

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objective

- Define a martyr as a person who gives up his or her life to witness to the truth of Christ and the faith

Witness to the Truth

Ask: How do people show they value the truth?

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

Read aloud the introduction.

- Tell the children to listen to find out what Saint Thomas More's dilemma was.

Saint Thomas More

Show the children the location of England on a map. Explain that kings and queens were very powerful during the sixteenth century.

- Read aloud the letter.
- Ask the children to identify the two choices that Thomas More faced. **to support the king and live or to support the Catholic Church and die**
- Ask: What would you do if you were in Thomas' position?
- Ask: Have you ever had to decide whether to speak the truth, tell a lie, or remain silent? What happened?

Speak and Act the Truth

Have the children read these two paragraphs to learn about people who stand up for truth.

Work with Words

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the definition of *martyr*.

- Have the children make a vocabulary card for the term *martyr*.
- Tell the children that the Church recognizes many martyrs as Saints.
- Explain that early Christians who were killed because of their beliefs are also considered martyrs. Over the centuries, many Catholics have died for their faith.

• Ask why Thomas More and others were willing to give up their lives to witness to the truth. **Possible responses: They wanted to remain faithful to Christ; they knew that the truth was important.**

► Music Option: Have the children sing, “C-H-O-I-C-E-S” or “Choices,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Have the children work with a partner to create a list of reasons for telling the truth.

Quick Review

Followers of Jesus are called to live in the truth. Martyrs are people who die for the truths of faith.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Recognize God as the source of all truth. His Word and his law call people to live in the truth
- Identify the Eighth Commandment as calling us to be honest in words and actions and forbidding lying, gossip, and any acts against the truth
- Define reparation as an action taken to repair the damage done from sin

The Eighth Commandment

Ask: What does the Eighth Commandment call you to do?

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

Read aloud the text.

- Remind the children of Jesus' answer to the question: Who is my neighbor? **Everyone is your neighbor.**
- Point out that Jesus might say that the Eighth Commandment is “You shall not bear false witness against anyone.”

Work with Words

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the definition of *reparation*.

- Have the children make a vocabulary card for the term *reparation*.

Jesus Is the Truth

Ask the children to explain the difference between being truthful and not lying.

- Have the children read silently the paragraph to learn the difference.
- Have the children make a vocabulary card for *prudence*.

Scripture

Choose a child to proclaim “The Truth Will Set You Free.”

- Discuss what Jesus meant when he said, “The truth will set you free.”

Read aloud the last paragraph.

- Remind the children that having people trust you is a good consequence of being truthful.

► Music Option: Have the children sing, “Jesus Is the Word,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- After the children have marked their responses, ask them to gesture “thumbs up” if the statement describes living the truth and “thumbs down” if it does not.
- Discuss as a group ways to make the wrong choices right.

Quick Review

The Eighth Commandment forbids lying. You must make up for the harm done by any lies you tell. Jesus said, “The truth will set you free.”

Catechist Tips: Jewish Proverbs

A proverb is a brief popular saying that expresses the beliefs of a culture or religion. The Jewish religion has many proverbs that deal with the value of truth and honesty. Two such proverbs are:

- A half-truth is a whole lie.
- What you don’t see with your eyes, don’t invent with your mouth.

Catechist Tips: Thomas More

This man of faith loved his life, his family, and the truth.

- His dramatic story is told in the movie *A Man for All Seasons*, available through online rental and local libraries.
- Teachers can benefit from seeing this film, although the material is too mature for fourth-graders.

Catechist Tips: Martyr for Human Rights

Politics and religious social teachings intersect in the realm of human rights.

- These include the right to life, economic rights, and political rights (voting and religious freedom).
- Archbishop Oscar Romero was a religious leader who gave his life for human rights.

Catechist Tips: Gossip

Gossip is a failing that many fourth graders have experienced. Look for ways to discourage it.

- To forestall formation of cliques, make sure that the children do not always work with the same classmates.
- Model the correct behavior. Never speak unfavorably of anyone.
- Affirm the children who have positive things to say about their classmates.

Catechist Tips: Student Pairs

Arrange the children with different learning styles in pairs.

- Pair a visual learner with a child strong in movement skills to work on a skit.
- For a storybook activity, pair an artist and a child with strong language skills.

Catechist Tips: Hypothetical Situations

Fourth-graders are very conscious of others' actions. Avoid retelling class situations that could identify any child as a troublemaker.

- Discuss situations from books, movies, or other media that most children have encountered.
- Discourage the children from telling stories of friends or family members who have lied or hurt others.

Glossary Activity: Witness

Make "witnessing to Jesus" more real with a courtroom simulation.

- Select the children to play the judge and a witness.
- Have a child say "I swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth."
- Have the judge ask, "What do you believe about Jesus?"

Additional Activity: School Song

Consider having the children adapt a school song as a song for truth.

- Use the music to your school song.
- Have the children write new words that show their commitment to truth.
- Make copies of the words available, and perform the song as a class.

Additional Activity: Mascots

Invite the children to investigate the attributes implied by mascots. Are they scientifically accurate?

- Why would a team choose a tiger for a mascot?
- How fast are rabbits?
- Why are owls associated with wisdom?

Parish Video Connection: Cardinal Virtues

After completing the Catechist Edition instruction on page 213, show the children this video.

Say: Remember to think about your decisions in the light of truth and to ask yourself if the choice that you plan to make is truly what God wants for you.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/8AR19NAqYU0>

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