

Grade 6 - Chapter 6

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Tips: God's Plan

Although the Israelites were delivered from slavery in Egypt through God's intervention, they did not know what it meant to be his People.

- In providing food for the Israelites in the desert, God helped them begin to learn to trust him.
- When the Israelites received the Ten Commandments, they discovered God's basic expectations for following his plan.

Catechist Tips: God, My Rock

Explain to the children that the image of God's faithfulness as a rock on which to lean is common in Scripture.

- Have the children read Psalm 62 antiphonally or in chorus.
- Invite the group to sing or listen to recordings of traditional hymns that describe God as a rock, such as "Rock of Ages" or the spiritual "A Rock in a Weary Land."

Catechist Tips: Faithful Friends

Many children learn best through stories. Discuss with the children movies and books that portray faithful friends.

- Some examples of such stories are the movies *Toy Story* and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and the book *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White.

Glossary Activity: Decalogue (Ten Commandments)

Organize the children in small groups. Invite each group to design a code of conduct that could apply to all of the groups.

- Tell the children to brainstorm everything they think should be in the code.

- Have each group decide on ten statements that should govern their behavior.
- Remind them that we have a real code of conduct given by God in the Decalogue, another way of saying the Ten Commandments.

Additional Activity: Advice Column

Have the children write “advice column” letters and responses.

- Have the children write to their favorite Saints, asking advice on how to grow in friendship with God. Then have them “answer” the letters in the Saint’s voice.
- Invite them to share their work.

Additional Activity: Positive Commandments

Supplies:

- paper
- pencils

Invite the children to find the Ten Commandments in the lesson. Point out that all the Commandments except three and four say what we should **not** do. Instruct the children to re-write the other eight commandments into **Do** statements keeping the meaning and spirit of the original commandment. For example, instead of "Thou shalt not kill" they might write "Thou shall take care of life, especially..."

Additional Activity: Commandment Necklace

Supplies:

- film containers (or similar containers) with two holes punched parallel near the top of each container to string the cord through
- string or elastic cord (thin enough to fit through beads)
- beads
- little strips of paper (that can fit inside film container)
- gems (or similar items) to decorate the container
- colored paper
- scissors
- tape
- glue
- markers

Explain that the children are going to make a Commandment mezuzah to remind them of all the things God is calling them to do. As a group, brainstorm things that the children are called to do to follow the Commandments.

Distribute three slips of paper to each child. Invite the children to write one goal/call per slip. Decorate the paper as desired. Place in the film container. String the film containers. Add beads to the string as desired. Use paper, gems, etc. to decorate the container. Encourage them to affix it to their bedroom door.

Encourage the children to pay attention to their goals/calls through the week. Suggest that they record their progress, either on the back of the slips, or on a separate piece of paper. If you have time, have the children share their goals with the group and how they are going to carry them out.

Parish Video Connection: The Ten Commandments

Before having the children work on the Share Your Faith activity on page 109, have them watch this video that explains the Ten Commandments in contemporary and abbreviated contexts.

Say: Father Joe explained some of the Commandments that might not make sense to people who aren't Catholic in a way that helps people understand them. How would you explain one of the Commandments to a friend who didn't understand what it meant?

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