

Grade 5 - Chapter 6

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Virtue

Ancient Greek philosophers taught that there are four basic moral habits that humans must cultivate in order to be happy: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

- Christian thinkers expanded this idea by specifying that these four virtues help humans attain earthly and eternal happiness.

Catechist Tips: Prayer in Action

Praising God in prayer and worship and praising him by practicing virtue are both important ways of showing gratitude to God.

- Living the virtues is a way to “pray without ceasing.” (See 1 Thessalonians 5:17.)
- Help the children see that all aspects of a Christian’s life are meant to worship God.

Catechist Tips: To Discern What Is Right

You can help the children practice this skill at their own level of understanding.

- Describe a number of typical moral situations and choices, and ask the children to hold up index cards signaling Right or Wrong.
- Ask them to evaluate the moral choices made by characters in favorite books, movies, and TV shows.

Catechist Tips: Prayer Review

Help the children review the traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. ...

- Remind the children that relying on memorized prayers like this one can be helpful in stressful situations.
- Encourage the children to make up their own prayers to the Holy Spirit for help in making choices.

Catechist Tips: The Great Commandment

Review “The Great Commandment” on page 108. Pass out study sheets with the following questions:

Set A: **When is it hard to live the commandment to love God? Give examples. Who or what helps you live this commandment?**

Set B: **What is hard about the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself? Give examples. Who or what helps you live this commandment?**

Divide the class in half with each working alone to write their thoughts on the questions in one Set. Then, in small groups (with a mix of the two commandment sets) let them share what they wrote.

Glossary Activity: Cardinal Virtues

Have the children use comic-book style artwork to illustrate a story about moral decision making.

- They can use their student book for ideas or they can make up their own story.

Additional Activity: Dialogues about Virtues

Organize the children into pairs. Assign each pair a Cardinal Virtue.

- Direct the children to write an imaginary conversation between two people about the virtue.
- Invite each pair to do a dramatic reading of their conversation for the rest of the group.

Additional Activity: Live a Virtue

Have the children brainstorm ways of practicing the Cardinal Virtues.

- Invite them to suggest everyday actions that would require each virtue. For example, a way to show courage is by volunteering to answer a difficult question at school.

Parish Video Connection: The Cardinal Virtues—Courage

Before the children begin the Gold Star activity on page 112, play this video to expand on the concept of courage/fortitude as a Cardinal Virtue and how we ask God for help in living this virtue.

Say: You heard Father Jonathan talking about having courage as we deal with the people and situations in our lives. We all need courage, maybe most especially when we have to make the right choices in our lives. Sometimes we make the wrong decision, and look back on what we could have done differently. Let’s look at some ways we can make better decisions, using what we’ve learned about the virtues, especially fortitude.

YouTube Link: https://youtu.be/4-UC_c00Jjk