

Grade 6 - Chapter 13

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Explain the Great Commandment in relationship to the Ten Commandments
- Describe the Transfiguration as the revelation of Jesus in glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John

Old Law and New Law

Ask: What is the New Law?

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

Have two volunteers read aloud the two paragraphs.

- Emphasize that the Old Law was a preparation for the New Law revealed by Jesus.
- Point out that the Old Law is still important and that the Commandments are still binding today.

Scripture

Proclaim the Scripture.

★ Have the children underline the law God has written in our hearts.

- Ask: What does it mean to have the law written in your heart?
- Discuss as a group.

The Law Fulfilled

Summarize the paragraph, stressing that Jesus interpreted the Law in a new way.

Scripture

Have a volunteer proclaim the Scripture story.

- Ask the children to silently read the next paragraph, explaining the Transfiguration.
- Ask: How would you have reacted if you had been there that day?
- Allow volunteers to share their thoughts.

Activity

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Reflect portion of the activity.

- Allow time for the children to write their answers.
- ▶ Music Option: While the children work, play “Loving God” or “Transfigure Us, O Lord,” downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.
- Ask the children to share with a partner times when it is difficult to live by the Law.

Quick Review

The greatest Commandment is to love God and others. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets. His glory was revealed to the Apostles Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Reflect on the Beatitudes and how they should influence our lives
- Follow the practice of charity in our own faith journeys
- Explore how the Precepts of the Church help the faithful to live holy and dutiful lives

Jesus Teaches

Instruct the children to think about how Jesus calls us to live as the group covers the next two pages. Summarize the first paragraph.

Scripture

Ask a volunteer to stand and proclaim the Scripture.

★ Direct the children to underline the foundation of Jesus' teachings.

Select two more volunteers to read aloud the last two paragraphs on the page.

Work with Words

Have the children temporarily put aside their books.

- Write the four words or phrases on the board or on chart paper.
- Read aloud each of the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.
- Call on volunteers to tell you the term that goes with each definition.

To expand the discussion on the Beatitudes, have the children turn to page 316 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of the Student Book.

Freedom to Love

Have the children silently read the two paragraphs.

- Point out that many people in Jesus' day equated happiness with wealth, trouble-free living, and security. In fact, many people today still think the same way.
- Ask: Who can help us follow the true path to happiness? **the Holy Spirit**
- Ask: Who around you needs to know God's blessing through your actions?
- Allow time for reflection.

The Church's Precepts

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

- Have the children turn to page 317 for a list of the Precepts.

Activity

As you explain the directions for the activity, draw a sample word map. In the center circle, write the name of someone who is a Christian.

- Around the person's name, write words that describe his or her Christ-like qualities. Take suggestions from the children.
- Once the children have seen how it is done, have them work independently to complete the activity using a person of their choice.

Quick Review

The law of love and the Beatitudes are a source of hope and a call to a holy way of life for Christians. The Precepts of the Church help us grow closer to God and neighbor.

Catechist Tips: Charity

The word *charity* is based on a Latin word, *caritas*. The root of that word means "dear," in the sense of being precious and highly valued.

- Humans are to hold one another dear, as God holds humans dear. Thus, valuing neighbors involves reaching out to meet their needs.
- Charity is both a gift of the Spirit and a habit to be cultivated.

Catechist Tips: The Beatitudes

Some of the Beatitudes are also found in Luke 6:20-26. The term *blessed* means "fortunate" or "happy."

- Jesus reversed the expectations of his listeners, who did not expect those in mourning or those being persecuted to be happy.
- In the passage from Luke, Jesus focuses on those who are poor, hungry, weeping, and hated.

Catechist Tips: The Transfiguration

The event known as the Transfiguration confirms that Jesus is the Son of God and points to his future coming at the end of the age.

- Jesus' appearance was changed, revealing his glory in brilliant light.
- Peter, James, and John were witnesses of this event. This "inner circle" of disciples was also privileged to be alone with Jesus on other occasions. (See Matthew 26:37, Mark 5:37.)

Catechist Tips: Luke 10:25-28

Provide the children with this additional information:

- In Jesus' time, religious teaching was often carried out through a question-and-answer format.
- It was common for teachers to question one another in order to test the authority and soundness of the teachings.

Catechist Tips: The Skill of Reconciliation

One of the most important ways for sixth graders to live the Great Commandment is by practicing the skill of reconciliation.

- Remind the children to put a quick end to conflicts and grudges.
- Promote an atmosphere of respect that includes apologizing and offering forgiveness as appropriate.

Catechist Tips: Great Commandment and Precepts of the Church

The Church teaches that the Great Commandment, also called the new covenant, sums up the original Ten Commandments. It shows what kind of life Christians are called to live, and is a source of life and freedom (see CCC, 2052, 2055, 2057).

Say: Besides the Ten Commandments, Jesus' Great Commandment and the Beatitudes, the Church also gives us laws to follow which give us identity as Roman Catholics.

- Write the word *precepts* on the board or on chart paper.
- Point out that the Precepts of the Church are the minimum that Catholics are called to fulfill.
- Note the precepts on Communion and Confession as examples of minimums.

Glossary Activity: Beatitudes

List the eight Beatitudes on the board or on the left half of a sheet of chart paper.

- Ask the children to think of ways in which each Beatitude applies to their lives.
- Have a volunteer write each of those applications next to the appropriate Beatitude on the board or on chart paper.

Additional Activity: Pantomime

Learning to act from love by doing good deeds is similar to learning other skills.

- Arrange the group into smaller groups of two or three.
- Ask each small group to pantomime a good deed for the class.
- Have the remaining children guess the good deed being presented.

Additional Activity: Scripture Readings

Divide the large group into two smaller groups. Assign one of the groups the reading from Jeremiah 31:33-34 and the other the reading from Matthew 22:37-40. Write the following questions on the board or on chart paper and have them discuss:

- **What do you think is the most important sentence in the reading? Why?**
- **What connection does the reading have for you with the law of love?**

Tell the children that there are no wrong answers to these two questions because you are asking their personal opinion. When the children have finished, invite volunteers to share their responses with the large group.

Additional Activity: Love Sculptures

Supplies:

- clay
- wire
- toothpicks
- paper plates
- markers
- clean-up station available (sink access or washtub with water)
- newspaper to cover workspace

Give each child a substantial chunk of clay.

- Tell the children that they are to use the clay to create a Love Sculpture which represents one way they will show love of God, self, or others in the upcoming week.
- Give them time to work the clay. Suggest they use the wire and toothpicks to create texture on the sculptures.
- When the children are finished, place the sculptures on paper plates so they can take them home.
- Have a clean-up station available for children to use when they are finished.

If you have time, have the children share their creation with the rest of the group. Encourage them to explain in detail why they made what they did.