

P A R E N T C O N N E C T I O N

UNIT THREE LESSON ONE

Essential Question

How does Jesus teach us to live a moral life?

Learning Targets

The new archdiocesan curriculum is designed in such a way that the learning information follows a spiral pattern in that similar topics are discussed at a progressively deeper cognitive level each year following the appropriate age of the learner, beginning with early childhood and concluding with adulthood. Below is a chart that shows this progression for our 2nd topic / essential question "What does Jesus Christ teach you about God?" Please review this to see what your child(ren) are covering at their own cognitive level.

Additionally, you will notice that each grade level is covering the same or similar topic each week. This chart can also be used as a tool for conversation starters about what was learned in formation, other family discussions, and as a means to unite the family under one theme. Our hope is that this information will help you be more aware of what your child(ren) are covering and that it can be integrated or reinforced at home in some fashion and may even inspire your own faith life as well.

Early Childhood
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (U₁) 1.3.4.1 – God wants people to make good choices and not bad choices. (CCC#311; 1777; 1799)• (U₂) 1.3.5.1 – There are good actions and evil actions. (CCC#1732; 1749)• (U₃) 1.3.3.2 – Grace is God's gift to all people which is always present. (CCC#1999; 2001-02; 2022-23)• (U₄) 1.3.3.1 – When people do something that they know they are not to do, it is a sin. (CCC#1840-50; 1871)
Elementary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (U₁) 2.3.4.2 - Following God's rules will help guide one to know right from wrong, thus developing a good conscience. (CCC#1783-85; 1789; 1802)• (U₂) 2.3.3.10 – Grace is the gift of God's life and love. Grace helps one to make good choices. (CCC#1999; 2001-02; 2022-23)• (U₂) 4.3.4.1 – In life, people must make choices, and they have a responsibility to make good moral choices. (CCC#1787; 1798-99; 1801)• (U₄) 4.3.3.6 – Grace is a gift that God has already given one to make right choices. (CCC#1713; 1749; 1776; 1778; 1781-82; 1786; 1796; 1799-1800; 1996; 2022)
Junior High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.3.1.3 - When one loves and serves others as Jesus did, one acknowledges and that every person is created and loved by God.• 7.3.5.1 - Natural Law is the part of Moral Law that is accessible to all people. It is the result of the application of human reason to the question of what is always true and good. It remains valid in all times and places.• 7.3.4.1 - Conscience is a gift from God that helps people make the right moral decisions. It is each person's responsibility to develop and obey a well formed conscience.• 8.3.2.2 - Christian happiness is based on the First Commandment to love above all else the true God, revealed by His Son, Jesus Christ.
High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3.1.1 - God reveals the fullness of the moral code in the new covenant.• 3.1.3 - The moral life sustains and restores friendship with God, love of neighbor, and stewardship of creation.• 3.7.1 - United in faith to Christ as the true way of life, Christians' works of love reflect their dignity as children of God.• 3.7.3 - Regular participation at Mass, and personal prayer grounded in Jesus' teachings, are habits that support one in living the moral teachings of Christ and his Church.
Adult

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- MA 3.2.2 – The moral law found in Scripture can be described as fatherly instruction by God. It prescribes the ways and rules of conduct that leads one to the promised Beatitudes and prescribes the ways of evil which turns one away from God and his love.
- MA 3.2.3 – The Ten Commandments state what is required in the love of God and love of neighbor.
- MA 3.2.24 – The Beatitudes express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of Christ's Paschal Mystery while shedding light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life.
- MA 3.2.24 – The Beatitudes are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations by reversing typical presumptions in order to provoke conversion in the hearts of Christians.

Learning Target Videos

A quick and easy way to wrap up integration of the Parent Connection (PC) at home, as well as relay the learning target of this session's Essential Question (EQ) to your child(ren), is through the use of the videos that have been chosen by the Archdiocese to convey an overarching theme of the EQ at hand. All videos are family friendly and are chosen with the intent to clarify EQ content in an engaging way.

Video one: Grades PreK-4, A New Commandment <https://youtu.be/QhoFmt1nfGo>

Video two: Grades 3-8, God's Story: The Good Samaritan <https://youtu.be/MLzdQtetedc>

Video three: Grades 4-12, A New Commandment https://youtu.be/D4P5jLde_og

Parent Formation Opportunities

The additional resources that are listed below are intended for your own personal growth, because they offer theological insight that circle back to the essential question through a more mature and personal approach. They offer spiritual guidance for prayer, day to day living, and apologetics. Although these resources are optional, they are strongly encouraged to be considered. Looking over these resources should take no longer than a few minutes and can all be found online.

Scripture: [Exodus 20](#), [Matthew 5:3-12](#), [Matthew 12:30-31](#)

CCC: [2060-2061](#), [1716-1717](#), [1750](#)

YouTube:

- *Bishop Barron on The Ten Commandments*
Channel: Bishop Robert Barron
Publication: March 12, 2015
<https://youtu.be/pFemAFXcQ9Q>
- *The Beatitudes: The Key to Joy*
Channel: Lee Varallo
Publication: September 15, 2018
<https://youtu.be/XHmTcxYHzy8>
- *In the World, But Not of It*
Channel: Ascension Presents
Publication: July 3, 2019
<https://youtu.be/dAjSAlbWNGg>

Podcast:

- *Aquinas On Happiness W/ Fr. Ryan Mann (Part 1)*

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Podcast: Pints With Aquinas

Publication: August 6, 2019

<https://pintswithaquinas.libsyn.com/165-aquinas-on-happiness-w-fr-ryan-mann-part-1> or

can be found on Apple Podcast App

- *The Big Bang, Examination of Conscience, and Overcoming Mortal Sins*

Podcast: Ask Father Josh

Publication: December 3, 2018

<https://askfrjosh.fireside.fm/30> or can be found on Apple Podcast App

- *57 What is Truth?*

Podcast: All Things Catholic with Dr. Edward Sri

Publication: November 12, 2018

<https://luminarypodcasts.com/listen/edward-sri-297/all-things-catholic-by-edward-sri/061-what-is-truth/cd0d4da2-0f40-4484-b69a-3bd8ecc4658c> or can be found on Apple

Podcast App

Book:

- *The Sermon on the Mount and Moral Theology: A Virtue Perspective*
Author: William C. Mattison
Sections: Part One, Section One & Two, Part Two, Section One A, B
Publisher: Cambridge University Press
- *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*
Author: William C. Mattison
Sections: Chapter One, Two, Three
- *The "R" Father*
Author: Mark Hart
Publisher: Word Among Us Press
Sections: All

Family Activities

Conversation Starters

Sharing the faith as a family is a great way for it to stick/grow. Here are some conversation ideas based on what your son/daughter was recently learning in formation. Consider using these immediately after picking up your child(ren) from Catechesis or at the dinner table.

- What are three new things you learned during catechesis class today?
- What is something you learned that you already knew?
- Do you think you might have learned something that I don't know or you think is important for me to know? If so, what?
- How would you explain the Ten Commandments or Beatitudes to a friend?
- How would you explain why they are so important?
- *Recite the Ten Commandments together.*
- *Recite the Beatitudes together.*

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- Why do you think it is important to follow the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, and all the rules and guidelines Jesus has given us?

Prayer Activity

With your child(ren), pray the Our Father and then, line by line, break down the meaning of the prayer as expressed below.¹

Our Father, who art in heaven

Is an acknowledgement of God's holiness and *right* to be ever praised and exalted. This describes how great He is.

Hallowed be Thy name.

A name identifies someone or something. It strives to capture what this someone or something is. Example: We give people nicknames fitting to them. In saying this, we have acknowledged His holiness. Therefore, we exclaim that His name is to be hallowed, *because* we understand God to be deserving of endless praise. "Lord, let your name be recognized and loved."

Thy kingdom come.

What is God's kingdom? It is where everything operates or works how God intended it to. This means that we will His will for us. This is a petition that concerns God directly. "Let your kingdom come or arrive. Let things be as You wish. Let us help make this happen by our own actions. Let us be people of hope."

Thy will be done,

Ultimately, God's will is love. Here, we pray that His charity be spread and received by us, here, on earth. This is another petition that concerns God directly.

on earth as it is in heaven.

At the end of this last statement or petition in the prayer, we have officially acknowledged that God's fullness, Truth, and love. Therefore, we ask that it may be experienced now, on earth.

Next, we ask that, after stating what we have so far, we might be transformed — transformed by our faith and the petitions that follow (concerning ourselves).

Give us this day our daily bread.

Here, we ask for something regarding the present moment — prudence; to see rightly and to act rightly. We ask for guidance throughout the current day, throughout our lives.

And forgive us our trespasses,

Here, we ask for justice — to be in right relationship (with God). We ask that God forgive us and restore us to be in right/a good relationship with God.

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

We also ask for restoration or forgiveness of our relationships with others.

And lead us not into temptation,

¹ All notes have been inspired by the teachings of Dr. William C. Mattison.

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Here we ask for temperance — that we are not led into temptation, that we have the faith needed to see that our greatest desire is not what we have or what this world has to offer, but God alone.

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Here, we ask for fortitude — the ability to face difficulty or hard times well. We ask that we be delivered by evils not meaning we never face bad times, but that we are not overcome by them.

Overall, the Lord's Prayer or Our Father can be viewed as a list of seven petitions — the first three concerning God and the last four concerning ourselves.

Physical Activity

With your child(ren), watch one of the following recommended movies (or one you know of) that promote moral growth and encouragement. Afterwards, discuss with each other what you learned or got out of it.

- *How to Train Your Dragon*
- *Facing the Giants*
- *The Karate Kid*
- *Disney's Tangled*
- *Disney's Frozen 2*

Closing Prayer

Being that there was no stain or disorder in her, look to the guidance of the Blessed Mother. *Beginning with the Sign of the Cross, pray a Hail Mary.*