

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

UNIT THREE LESSON TWO

Essential Question

Why and how does Jesus Christ want me to make good choices?

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) 2.3.1.2 – Choosing to follow Jesus means loving God with all one's heart and loving one's neighbor as oneself. (CCC#1822; 1844; 1944) [CVL] [Repeated in Unit #4]• (U₂) 2.3.1.1 – Love is at the heart of God's Laws and Commandments. (CCC#231; 2061-62)• (U₄) 4.3.1.3 – Loving others and treating them as Jesus taught results in a life of true happiness and freedom. (CCC#1725; 1731; 1733; 1738)• (U₁) 5.1.3.20 – If people abide in the love of Jesus Christ, they will keep his commands. (CCC#1824) [CVL] [Repeated from Unit #1]
Elementary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (K₁) 1.3.2.1 – Commandments are laws or rules given to people by God. (CCC#1975; 2058; 2060; 2080-81) [CVL]• (K₁) 3.3.2.1 – The Ten Commandments are important expressions of God's Law. (CCC#72; 1952; 2058; 2080)• (K₂) 2.3.2.1 – The stories in the Bible demonstrate the importance of the Ten Commandments. (CCC#62; 2056; 2060)• (K₁) 2.1.2.5 – God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites through Moses. (CCC#62; 72; 2056)
Junior High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.3.1.1 - Love governs the relationship human beings have with God and one another.• 6.3.3.9 - Conversion of the heart, first initiated by Christ, calls Christians to turn away from sin, repent and live in the Gospel. The desire and resolution to change one's life entails hope and trust in God's mercy and grace.• 7.6.3.1 - God calls each individual person in a unique way to work for the common good.• 7.3.7.4 - One's moral life is nourished when one participates in the sacramental life of the Church.
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 3.2.1 - The moral life is revealed progressively through creation, the Mosaic Law, and the Prophets, and is fully revealed in Jesus.
- 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 3.2.8 - 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.

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-3, *Pinocchio and Jiminy Cricket - Always Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide!*

<https://youtu.be/DOZzNOkcEgM>

Video two: Grades 4-12, *3MC - 3 Minute Catechism - (English) Episode 41 - What are Sins?*

<https://youtu.be/e5yvgSVvMEs>

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: [Luke 10:25-28](#), [Luke 10:29-37](#), [Matthew 19:16-30](#)

CCC: [1750](#), [2052-55](#), [2062](#)

YouTube:

- *Bishop Barron on Conscience and Morality*
Channel: Bishop Robert Barron
Publication: August 15, 2011
<https://youtu.be/HYvbgOTGm7g>
- *105: How should we understand morality? With Fr. Dominic Legge*
Channel: Matt Fradd
Publication: May 7, 2018
<https://youtu.be/U7qOb437Zpk>
- *The Rich Young Man & the Divinity of Jesus (The Mass Readings Explained Intro)*
Channel: Catholic Productions
Publication: Oct 9, 2018
<https://youtu.be/xbW9451PAoo>

Podcast:

- *002: Conscience*
Podcast: Life is Worth Living: A Fulton J. Sheen Catholic Podcast

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Publication: November 25, 2019

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/life-is-worth-living-a-fulton-j-sheen-catholic-podcast/id1376509938> or can be found on Apple Podcast App

- *103: Happiness Is A Skill*

Podcast: Dr. Taylor Marshall Catholic Show

Publication: February 11, 2016

<https://taylormarshall.com/2016/02/103-happiness-is-a-skill-podcast.html> or can be found on Apple Podcast App

- *Do I Have A Good Conscience?*

Podcast: The Fr. Mike Schmitz Catholic Podcast

Publication: April 4, 2019

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/do-i-have-a-good-conscience/id1200915759?i=1000434167338> or can be found on Apple Podcast App

Book:

- *Veritatis Splendor: The Splendor of Truth*

Author: Pope John Paul II

Sections: Introduction, Chapter One, Section Two of Chapter Two

Publisher: Vatican

Free copy available online

- *Life Everlasting: A Theological Treatise on the Four Last Things*

Author: Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange

Sections: Preface Part One, Part Two: 7

Publisher: TAN Books

Free copy available online

- *On Conscience*

Author: Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

Sections: All

Publisher: Ignatius Press

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?
- *With your child(ren), define morals or morality.*

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- *Explain how we know and determine the difference between what is right and what is wrong.*
- *Share about a time you did something right and wrong. Then share the different ways these acts made you feel.*
- What are some laws, rules, or guidelines Jesus has given us to help us form our morals?
- *Why do you think Jesus helps us live a moral life and determine what is good for us and what is not? What does He ultimately desire for each of us?*
- How do you think the Sacraments help us in acquiring what Jesus desires for us?

Prayer Activity

With your family, do an examination of conscience. An examination of conscience is a block of time we should strive to set aside at the end of every day to reflect on our actions that day — looking at the ways we did good in following the laws and guidelines God has given us, as well as all the ways we did bad and sinned by turning away from God and neglecting what He has asked of us.

In a calm and serene environment, guide your family through the Examination of Conscience located at the end of the resource. Then, have your family reflect on each of the Ten Commandments and write down or journal about the different ways they obeyed or disobeyed these commandments. Afterwards, go around the room and share what they learned from this exercise.

Ten Commandments

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Physical Activity

With your family, go to the batting cages, play catch, jump rope, ride bikes, or learn a dance move/routine. Afterwards, explain to your child(ren) that virtues are good habits — our inclination to pursue the good. Vices, however, are bad habits — our inclination to pursue that which is bad. Then explain how, similar to the activity you did as a family, practice makes “perfect.” Acquiring any virtue or vice is a result of the habits we form. Knowing that we desire virtue, good habits, it is important to practice that which is good, namely the Ten

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Commandments and Beatitudes Jesus has given us, so that we can grow into becoming the best possible version of ourselves. This practice, however, applies to not only physical entities, but spiritual entities. Practice of prayer, virtue, and good works all help us rightly order our conscience, and thus help us in our ability to grow in our relationship with God.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, You are so good and worthy of all our love. Therefore, we pray for hearts capable of loving you more. We ask that you move in us, change us, transform us — and that you give us the grace needed to accept it and comply. Show us true goodness, Lord, so that we might never seek or settle for anything less. Thank you for loving us. Amen.

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Examination of Conscience

An Examination of Conscience Inspired by Jesuit Spirituality

Relationship with God

How often do I turn away from God and push Him away? What am I doing to grow closer to Him and those around me?

Do I remain faithful and go to Mass every Sunday? Do I listen to God's instructions for my life and follow all of the Ten Commandments?

Relationship with Others

Have I loved others as I love myself? Do I treat others fairly?

Do I set a good example for those around me? Do I imitate the life and actions of Christ?

Do I treat myself fairly? Do I love myself as purely as Christ loves me?

What am I doing right? How do I need to change?

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