

Grade 6 - Lesson 2

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

The First Commandment teaches that there is one true God, who alone is to be worshipped.



Catechetical Points

- The First Commandment
- The story of the golden calf (Exodus 32:1-10)
- The story of the rich man (Mark 10:17-22)
- Idolatry is worshipping false gods.
- Superstition is placing our trust in something other than God.
- Impiety is being disrespectful to God or sacred things.
- Heresy is disagreeing with certain teachings of the Church.
- Apostasy is leaving the Faith
- Forms of worship: Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

Materials

- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348
 - Bible Theater: Exodus - The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

Catechist prayer before the lesson:

God, the Father of life, help me to set a good example for my students. Help me to keep my actions and my words consistent with one another and with the teachings of the Church. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Before class starts:

- Let students who arrive early work on page 6 (**Strange Gods**) in their Activity Book. Answers are on page 21 of the Teacher's Manual.

[5 min] **Opening Prayer**

- Have the students open their Bibles to **Exodus 20:2-3**.
- The First Commandment is the most important commandment. It reminds us to keep God at the center of our lives. We have so many distractions that keep us from loving God as we should.
- Pray the **Apostles' Creed** (Student Text p. 147 / Teacher's Manual p. 261)

[5 min] **Icebreaker Discussion - Would You Rather**

- Would you rather get up very early or stay up very late?
- Would you rather make a movie of your life before you were twenty-one or a movie of your life after the age of twenty-one?
- Would you rather play a villain or a hero in a movie?
- Would you rather have hands instead of feet or feet instead of hands?
- Would you rather not be allowed to wash your hands for a month or your hair for a month?
- Would you rather play video games or play outside?
- Would you rather get good grades or be good at sports?
- Would you rather not use your computer for a month or not eat junk food for a month?
- Would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?
- Would you rather have live one hundred years in the future or one hundred years in the past?

[15 min] **The First Commandment**

- The First Commandment states: I am the Lord your God; you shall not have others gods before me.
- In the book of Exodus, we find the story of the Israelites being freed from their slavery in Egypt. **Who led the Israelites out of slavery?**
- After God freed the people, Moses led them through the desert to find the Promised Land. The people began complaining about the difficult journey, and soon forgot that it was God who led them to freedom.
- The story of God leading the Israelites out of Egypt can remind us that God leads each of us out of the slavery of sin. Some sins can be like addictions that are hard to break; for example, indulging in too much food all the time, or wasting time by using social

media too often or watching too much TV. God's grace can help free us from harmful habits, and it's important to show our love for God in a spirit of gratitude for everything he does for us to bring us to salvation.

- **How do we worship God?**
- **How do we disobey the commandment to love God?**
 - **Superstition** is placing our trust in something other than God. For example, looking for occult (hidden) knowledge by using horoscopes, tarot cards, or ouija boards (Note: Lately, a lot of kids have been playing a similar game called "Charlie Charlie").
 - **Impiety** is being disrespectful to God or sacred things.
 - **Heresy** is disagreeing with certain teachings of the Church.
 - **Apostasy** is leaving the Faith.

[15 min] **No Other Gods** (p. 17-18)

- Watch **Bible Theater: Exodus - The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf** by LC Lifekids https://youtu.be/FBnJZ2s9_ns
Alternatively, read Exodus 32:1-10
- **Why did the people make a golden calf?**
- **How did God respond?**
- **Idolatry** is worshipping false gods. In the ancient world, idols were false gods such as Zeus or Ba'al. Today, we can have different types of false gods, because anything we give more importance to than God is an idol.
- **What do you spend more of your free time doing?**
- It isn't wrong to have possessions or do fun things, but it can become a problem when these things become more important to us than God.
- Watch **Is God in the Center of Your Life?** By Fr. Mike Schmitz <https://youtu.be/O6kDFgaq4Pg>
- **What are some "idols" we have today?**
- Read **Strange Gods** on pages 17-18 in the Student Text.

[15 min] **Detachment**

- Read the story of the rich man (Mark 10:17-22).
- **Did the rich man keep the commandments?**

- **Why was he sad?**
- **Did the rich man love God enough to leave his possessions behind?**
- St. Augustine said: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."
- We are created to desire God above all things. However, the world provides many distractions. In order to love God above all else, we should let go of anything that gets in our way.
- **What are some possessions that you like a lot?**
- **Do you think you could give them up if you were asked to? Why?**

[15 min] **Due Worship** (p. 18-19)

- In the Old Covenant the Israelites offered sacrifices to God to atone for their sins. By dying on the Cross, Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice. By commemorating Jesus' sacrifice for us at Mass, we worship him.
- Look at the picture of Abel and Melchizedek on page 18 of the Student Text. **What are they offering as a sacrifice to God?**
- Read **Genesis 14:18** and **2 Samuel 6:17-19**.
- **What do these readings have in common?**
- Read **Due Worship** on pages 18-19 in the Student Text.
- In Old Testament Sacrifices, God's people would take the best of what they had, and instead of keeping it for themselves, they placed it on an altar and offered it to God. Abel sacrificed the first lambs of his flock, and Melchizedek offered bread and wine. Animals that were sacrificed were burned at the altar, and the smoke would rise to heaven to present the offering to God.
- The sacrifices made in the Old Covenant pleased God, but they did not make up for their sins. We were in need of a Savior after the Fall of Adam and Eve, because only Jesus can make the perfect sacrifice. Man alone cannot make up for his sins.
- **What sacrifices do we offer at Mass?** *Bread, wine, incense.*
- What are some other things we can offer to God in the Mass? *Our time, talents, and treasures. We can also offer up our worries and suffering to God.*

- One way to remember different forms of worshipping God is the acronym, ACTS (see page 17 in the Teacher's Manual):
 - Adoration
 - Contrition
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication.
- Have the students complete **Due Worship** on page 8 in their **Activity Book**. Answers are on page 22 of the Teacher's Manual.
- **How do you feel when you attend Mass?**

[5 min] **Closing Prayer**

- Ask the students if there is anything they would like to pray for. Pray an **Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be** together. (Student text page 147)