

Lesson 16 – The First Commandment of God

Grades 6-8

Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 16 in the Baltimore Catechism. Print and copy the necessary attachments for this lesson. You will also need to have a Bible for this session.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me.” Exodus 20:2-3

Leader: God, our creator, You have given us life, and You alone are perfectly lovable. Help us to love You above all things. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening:

This lesson is about the First Commandment, having no false gods. Begin by using the attached sheet and having students rank the 10 items in order of importance. Then, they should think about how God would rank them. Valuing things the way God does is wisdom. God, of course, is most important. We must place Him first to follow the First Commandment. Others on the list, such as family and friends, and others, are important, as well.

Watch the Lesson 16 Video on Catholic Brain

Comprehension Questions: *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on*

1) What is the first Commandment?

I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods besides me.

2) What are the three theological virtues?

Faith, hope, charity

3) What is faith?

The virtue by which we believe what God has revealed.

4) What is hope?

The virtue by which we trust in God's promises.

5) What is charity?

The virtue by which we love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Discussion Questions: *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) What does the first Commandment command?

It commands us to love God above all things, to worship Him, and to seek to please Him.

2) How might people sin against the first Commandment?

By having false gods, by valuing things ahead of God.

3) What does our culture seem to value above God?

Answers will vary.

Go Deeper:

Read the following Scripture passages and discuss whether the characters kept or broke the First Commandment:

Daniel 3:14-18

Matthew 19:16-22

2Maccabees 6:18-28

Matthew 26:14-16

Acts 5:27-32

Activity:

Using the attached sheet, match the given scenarios with specific sins against the first Commandment covered in this lesson in the catechism.

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Thank You, Lord, for calling us to have a relationship with You. Help us to love You, and to worship You, and to keep You first in our lives. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.