

Lesson 20 – The Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments of God

Grades 3-5

Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 20 in the Baltimore Catechism. Be sure to print and copy the sheet for the activity.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife...or anything...that belongs to him.” Exodus 20:15-17

Leader: Lord, your Commandments are a source of life and goodness to us. Help us to know and understand your plan for how we should live and treat each other, and give us the strength to keep your Commandments. 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 on the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th Commandments. The 7th Commandment is, “You shall not steal.” To get the students thinking about the topic at hand, begin by reading the following fable:

A dog, to whom the butcher had thrown a bone, was hurrying home with it, when he crossed a narrow footbridge. He looked down and saw in the water his own reflection. But he thought he was seeing another dog with its own bone, bigger than his own. He was sure he could take the bone from the other dog, so he jumped into the water after it, dropping his own bone. He soon realized his mistake and scrambled back out of the water. It was a sad dog who walked home, soaking wet and with no bone at all.

Ask the students what they think the moral of the fable is, and what it has to say about stealing.

Watch the Lesson 20 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 seventh Commandment?

You shall not steal

2) What does “bear false witness” mean?

To lie

3) What does “covet” mean?

To desire something that we should not desire. To be sinful, it must be willful.

4) What does the ninth Commandment command us not to covet?

Another’s spouse. We should respect marriage and not desire another person’s wife or husband.

5) What does the tenth Commandment command us not to covet?

Another’s belongings. We should respect people’s property and not desire for ourselves things which rightfully belong to another.

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 seventh Commandment have to do with generosity?

God has given us gifts to use well and to share. Everyone has the right to basic necessities of life. We have a duty in justice to be generous and help those less fortunate to ourselves. Greed is a violation of the seventh Commandment.

2) Why is it so important to tell the truth?

Answers will vary, but it is important to remember that Jesus said, “I am the Truth.” As Christians, we must be people of truth.

3) Why are the ninth and tenth Commandments important?

They speak about willful thoughts and desires. If our desires are disordered, our hearts are not pure. Breaking the ninth and tenth Commandments eventually leads to breaking other Commandments as well, particularly the sixth and seventh.

Activity:

There are many ways our words can hurt others. Five are specifically numerated in the Baltimore Catechism – lies, rash judgment, calumny (slander), detraction, and telling secrets we are bound to keep. (It is important to note that not all secrets should be kept. When the good of others or justice demands that we not keep a secret, we shouldn’t keep it.) Using the attached sheet, match each of these five violations of the eighth Commandment to its definition.

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Thank You, Lord, for teaching us to respect other people’s belongings, to honor the truth, and to guard our desires. May we keep your Commandments, and may they make us holy. 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.