

Lesson 22 – The Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments of the Church

Grades 3-5

Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 22 in the Baltimore Catechism. You will need to have a Bible for this session.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?” 2Corinthians 13:5

Leader: Come into our hearts, today, Lord. Help us to be open to your Word and obedient to your Church. 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:

Today’s session is about the last four precepts of the Church. The basis for each of them can be found in Scripture. Read the following four Bible passages, and after each one, ask the class what it is telling us.

John 20:21-23

1Corinthians 11:23-26

Luke 21:1-4

Matthew 19:4-6

Watch the Lesson 22 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 third precept of the Church?

To confess our sins at least once a year.

2) What is the fourth precept of the Church?

To receive Holy Communion during Easter.

3) What is the fifth precept of the Church?

To contribute to the support of the Church.

4) What is the sixth precept of the Church?

To observe the marriage laws of the Church.

5) Is it important to do more than just the minimum required by the precepts?

Yes, very important.

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) Why is it important to receive the Eucharist often?

The Eucharist is Communion with Jesus. It strengthens us and provides incredible grace. Provided we are in the state of grace, we should receive the Eucharist often.

2) Why is Confession once a year not enough?

That is the bare minimum. But sin can get a powerful hold on us. Confession is a powerful weapon. It not only purifies us of the guilt of sin, but strengthens us to resist sin. Monthly Confession is a good idea.

3) Why is it important to support the Church?

The Church continues the work of Jesus. It provides for the salvation of souls and performs the Works of Mercy. As Catholics, we should participate. We have received greatly from the Church. In justice, we should give back, support our priests in their needs, and participate in the mission of the Church.

Activity:

Set some spiritual goals. The precepts of the Church give a minimum necessary to practice our Faith, but we should strive to go beyond that. Make a spiritual plan. Think about your prayer life, how often you can attend Mass, how often you should go to Confession. Make your plan realistic, so you don't get discouraged – you can always adjust it later. But be sure it will challenge you to grow spiritually.

Closing Prayer:

Leader: We thank You, Lord, for the beautiful sacraments of your Church. May we practice them often and never take them for granted. 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.