

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

## CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Third Sunday of Lent • Year B • March 3, 2024

### Catechist Preparation

#### Scripture

**FIRST READING**—EXODUS 20:1-17

Through the prophet Moses, God gives his people the Law. Those who are faithful to it will know the mercy and love of God down to the thousandth generation.

**SECOND READING**—1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-25

We are called to proclaim a message that seems “foolish,” for the heart of the Good News is Christ crucified.

**GOSPEL**—JOHN 2:13-25

Jesus cleanses the Temple and promises a sign: his own body will be raised up after three days. In Christ’s Resurrection from the dead, a new household of faith will be constituted, fulfilling the former Covenant.

#### Church Teaching: The Ten Commandments

The Decalogue, or the Ten Commandments, literally means in Hebrew “the ten words.” They spell out the conditions whereby the people might grow and flourish.

The Law of God was equated with not just the Decalogue but the first five books of the Old Testament. It can be seen in three ways. First, it gave birth to a chosen people and provided form and substance to the relationship between God and God’s people. Second, it offered Israel a goal for living that was in accord with their high calling by God. Third, it prepared the way for the Good News of Jesus Christ and his embodiment of our new calling to love God fully and to love one’s neighbor as oneself.

#### Additional Background

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** 52, 63, 2056

**United States Catholic Catechism for Adults:** Chapter 24 (Life in Christ—Part Two), especially the section entitled “God’s Law as Our Guide,” pages 327–328

**Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II:** pages 96, 140

### Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a purple cloth, a candle, and an open Lectionary or Bible.

#### Discover

1. Invite the children to quietly think of a word, phrase, idea, or feeling from the liturgy just celebrated.
2. Invite volunteers to share their thoughts, pausing for a moment after each volunteer speaks.
3. Be prepared to share phrases such as:
  - “I, the Lord, am your God.”
  - “I, the Lord, am a jealous God.”
  - “Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.”

#### Deepen

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 2:13-25.
2. Discuss with the children
  - The cause of Jesus’ anger
  - The moneychangers’ wrongdoings
  - The people not understanding what Jesus was telling them about his own Death and subsequent Resurrection
3. Ask the children:

*What do you think kept the people in today’s Gospel from believing Jesus’ words?*

*What keeps us today from really believing the Good News of Jesus Christ?*

*What can we say or do to show that we believe the Good News of Jesus Christ?*

#### Pray

Sing or listen to a recording of the Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11.

## Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

### Supplies

In addition to the prayer table setup, you will need copies of the participant handout, a flip chart or whiteboard, markers, and copies of the Ten Commandments handout for all participants.

### Sunday Word

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

### Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

### Invite

1. Draw three columns on the flip chart or whiteboard and name them *Home*, *School*, and *Community*.

2. Ask the children:

*What are some of the rules in your home, at your school, and in our community?* (Record their responses on the flip chart or whiteboard.)

*Why do we have rules?*

*Are there any rules you think are silly? Why?* (Invite them to review the lists and circle any they think are silly. Add and circle any other rules they name.)

*What would our schools, our homes, and our world be like if we did not have rules?*

3. Explain that the God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments to help them live in good and right relationship with him and with others.

4. Read the short form of the First Reading, Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17.

### Teach

1. Read and discuss Key Teachings and Faith Words on the participant handout.

2. Display the poster or distribute the individual handouts listing the Ten Commandments.

3. Highlight the following points:

- The Ten Commandments tell the Chosen People what God expects of them. (*Review aloud the Ten Commandments and invite volunteers to share what they think the Commandments say about what God expects of us.*)
- The first three Commandments describe how the Israelites are to be in relationship with God. (*Review the first three Commandments and invite volunteers to explain examples of each. Refer to the Ten Commandments handout for examples.*)
- The next seven Commandments describe how they are to be in relationship with one another. (*Invite volunteers to describe the ways in their own words. Refer to the Ten Commandments handout for examples.*)

### Challenge

1. Invite the children to choose one Commandment they will especially work on in the coming week.

2. Have them write the number of that Commandment and how they will honor it in the My Commandment box on the participant handout.

3. Encourage the children to complete the Ten Commandments handout with their families.

### Pray

Lead the children in a simple examination of conscience using the following questions or some of those given on page 124 of *Our Catholic Heritage, Level I* or *Level II*.

*What do you want to thank God for today?*

*Is there anything you said or did today that you need to tell God you are sorry for?*

*Is there anyone you need to say I'm sorry to?*

*Whom do you want God to bless in a special way?*