



RCIC PROGRAMME

Unit 7 - GOD'S LAWS



The Ten Commandments

AIMS

1. To gain a better understanding of the Ten Commandments
2. To reflect on what happens when we do not follow God's Commands.
3. To introduce the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the way how we make friends again with God after sin.



KEY WORDS

- Ten Commandments
- Love God
- Love Others
- Sin
- Sorry
- Reconciliation
- Confession

INTRODUCTION

- Narrate the story of St Theresa of the Child Jesus (see Worksheet 7 side b for short biography)
- Ask: "What made Theresa notice God's love for her (us)?" She understood what Jesus said: that we must love one another and love God. Jesus also said that keeping his commandments brings us joy and peace. Discuss briefly these points with the children, referring to Jesus' words in John 15:10-11: If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

MAIN

- Show the 10 commandments flashcards (see resources. Briefly say how God gave them to us through Moses in the time of the Old Testament. Place the card "LOVE GOD" by the first three commandments and "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" by the remaining seven. Show how Jesus himself summed up the commandments in these two captions. Explain that this Unit is about LOVING GOD.
- Invite the children to talk about any of the 10 commandments for a while. Take feedback and comment on the correct understanding of each of them. *Example:*
 1. You shall not have other gods. God comes first. We are called to show a special love towards God especially through prayer and praise.
 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. God's name should only be used with honour and respect. We do this when we pray, at mass or when singing hymns etc.
 3. Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath day. We keep the Lord's Day holy by going to church and attend mass. By going to Mass each Sunday we show God that we love him and that we want to be with him. Sunday should be a day to celebrate and a day to REST from work.
 4. Honour your father and your mother: Respect parents and others in authority.
 5. You shall not kill: Respect life in every way. Discuss Life issues.
 6. You shall not commit Adultery: Love in husband-wife relationship in marriage.
 7. You shall not steal: Respect towards property of others.
 8. You shall not bear false witness: Always tell the truth.
 9. You shall not covet neighbour's wife: Do not wish to have anyone else's wife/husband.
 10. You shall not covet neighbour's goods: Do not wish to have anyone else's things/possessions.
- At the same time we are FREE to act in the way we want. God does not make us do anything but he wants us to FOLLOW him out of our free will. Sometimes we find it very hard to be good, make the good choices, avoid SIN and avoid being selfish. God our Father understands that it is not always easy to follow his Commandments. But he is always ready to help us and even forgive us if we ask Him. Make links to the sacrament of RECONCILIATION and the idea of being SORRY. (More in Units 12 and 13).

RESOURCES

- Flash Cards of the 10 commandments.
- Flash cards with Key words.
- Worksheet 7

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Ask the children to sit quietly and keep a few moments of silence. Invite them to reflect on God's loving forgiveness: "Let us close our eyes and think of how much God our Father loves us. Let us think of the times we have been selfish - the times we have sinned and for which we are sorry"
- End the prayer session with the Act of Contrition.

NOTES

Prayers in the PRAYER BOOK which are related to this theme and can be used both during the session as well as at home, are the ACT OF LOVE, the SORRY PRAYER (ACT OF CONTRITION) and the I CONFESS.

ACTIVITY

- Use the Role play cards (See Resource sheet for this Unit.) Read out and discuss each of the 4 situations with the children. Ask them what would they do in those situations and how each is related to God's commandments.
- Talk about the **Act of Contrition** (or Sorry prayer) and how we use this prayer to show we are sorry and how we want to try not to sin again. Encourage the children to pray it every day and learn it by heart.