

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: THE GREAT COMMANDMENT AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Inquiry Session (Approximately 60 minutes)

Prepare

Set the space with chairs in a circle, and in the center place a prayer table covered in the color of the liturgical season. On the table place a candle, a Bible, and a copy of the Ten Commandments.

You may find it helpful to review pages 96–97 and 140 of *Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II*, in preparation for this session.

If needed have name tags. Make refreshments available, too.

Gather (10–15 minutes)

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Invite them to introduce themselves and to tell something good that happened since the last time the group gathered.
2. Read together the *My Story* section of the participant handout.
3. Invite the group to discuss the following:
 - Talk about rules they follow each day, such as attending school (or going to work) and the structure of the school (or work) day, team rules for sports, and the rules of any other group or organization to which they belong.
 - Invite the group to consider why rules are important, and what would happen if there were no rules.
 - Remind the group that there are many other rules, or laws, we live by such as traffic laws, rules for driving, and family rules. Invite volunteers to give examples of each.
 - Again ask why such rules are important, and what would happen if they didn't exist.

Expand (15–20 minutes)

1. Explain to the group that the Church, too, has a set of Laws to guide us. These are the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment. The purpose of these Laws is to help us live in peace and in happiness.
2. Lead a discussion of the Great Commandment and its meaning. (See page 97 in *Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II*.) Invite the children to name practical ways to live the Great Commandment.
3. Lead a discussion of the Ten Commandments, inviting the children to give examples of ways to live each Commandment. (See page 96 in *Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II*.)
4. Read and discuss the *God's Story* section.

Our Response (15–20 minutes)

1. After leading the discussion on the Great Commandment and the Ten Commandments, ask the group whether there are any other rules or laws we need today. Invite volunteers to share their thoughts, and be prepared to give examples of your own.
2. Also ask the group whether there are any rules or laws that are no longer needed, and why.
3. Review together the *Faith Words* section of the participant handout.
4. Encourage the children to take time at the end of each day in the coming week to think about all the rules and laws they have followed, and to ask God to forgive them for any rules they may have broken.

Pray (2–3 minutes)

Pray a litany of contrition. Invite the group to respond, “Jesus, please forgive me.”

For the times I have disobeyed your Laws. (Response)

For the times I disobeyed the rules at school. (Response)

For the times I disobeyed the rules at home. (Response)

For the times I did not help someone in need of my help. (Response)