

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: THE GREAT COMMANDMENT AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



My Story

We follow rules. There are rules at school, rules at home, rules for the team, and even rules at Church. Without rules, people would simply do whatever they want. Rules can help us live in peace and happiness with each other.



AND THINK

- *What are some rules that you like? Why?*
- *What are some rules that you do not like? Why don't you like them?*



God's Story

Just as every family has rules, God has given rules—or *Commandments*—to the entire human family. Some people obey these rules; others do not. God meant for these rules to help everyone live in peace and happiness.

There are about six hundred commandments named in the Old Testament. The core Commandments are the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses many years ago. As God's people, we still follow these Ten Commandments.

When Jesus preached about the Commandments of God, he summed up the Ten Commandments into what we call the Great Commandment. The Great Commandment tells us to love God with our whole heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.



Our Response

Catholics talk about the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment a lot. We need to always keep them in our hearts and minds so that we remember to live by them. When we disobey these rules of God, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation will help us get on the right path again.



- *Read the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment, given on the back of this page.*
- *Do you think the Great Commandment is a good summary of the Ten Commandments? Why or why not?*

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Sharing God's Word

With your family, read the two Scriptures listed below. The first tells the story of the Ten Commandments. The second tells the story of the Great Commandment.

Exodus 20:2-3, 7-17

Matthew 22: 37, 39

The above readings are available at usccb.org/bible/readings.

Faith Words

Great Commandment

The Great Commandment teaches us that God's Laws are based on love of God and love of neighbor. When we follow the Great Commandment, we show our love for God, others, and ourselves.

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Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are Laws given by God to help us live good lives. The first three Commandments teach us how to love and serve God. The other seven Commandments teach us how to love and serve others and ourselves.

Laws to Live By

The Great Commandment and the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not lie.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Based on Exodus 20:2-3, 7-17

The Great Commandment

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:37, 39

