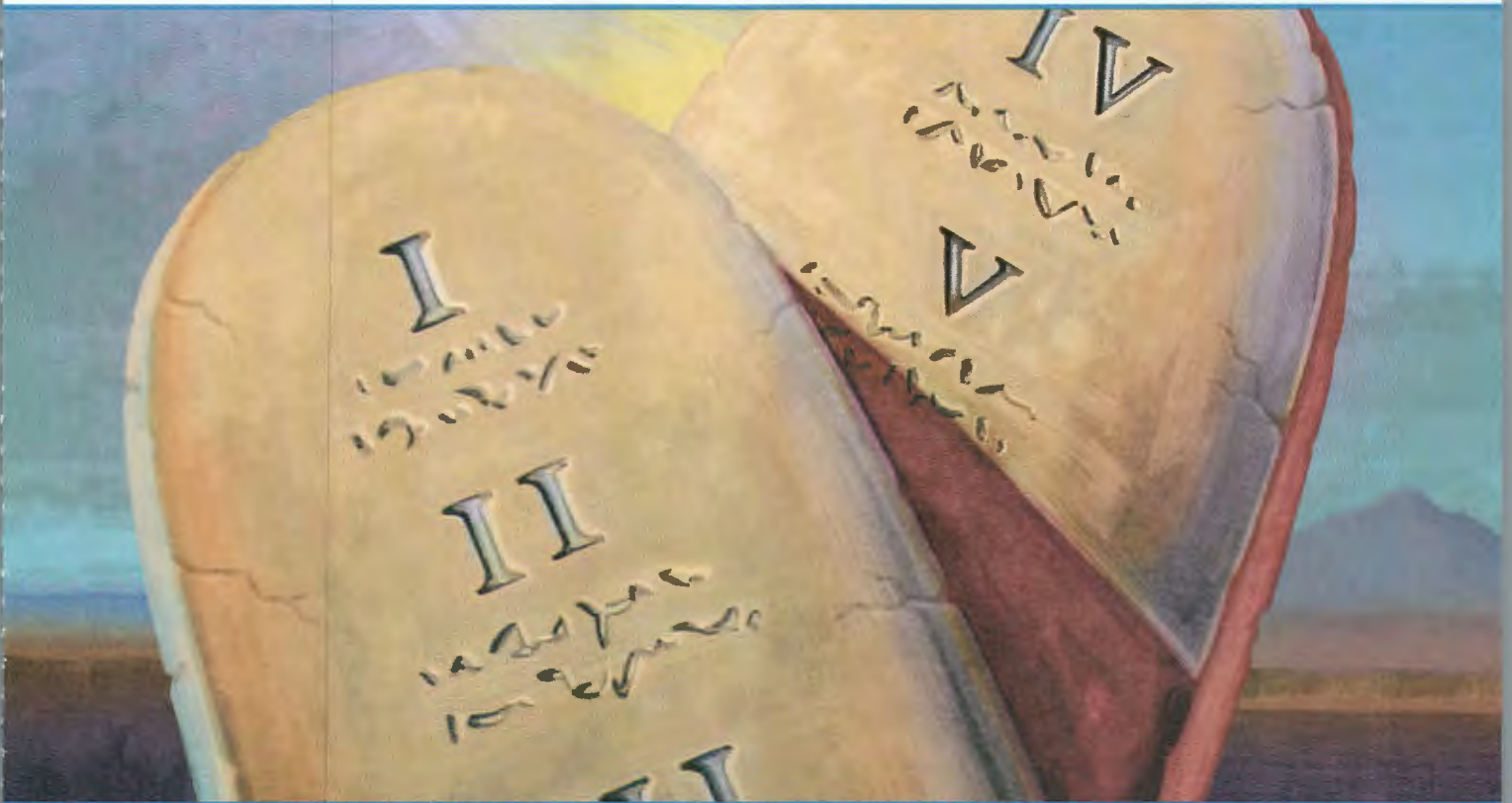


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

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Our Sunday Visitor

Living in Community

Let Us Pray

Leader: God of unity and communion, God who is one and three-in-one, unite us in love.

“How good and how pleasant it is,
when brothers dwell together as one!”

Psalm 133:1

All: God of unity and communion, God who is one and three-in-one, unite us in love. Amen.

Scripture

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. . . . Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. . . . God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

1 John 4:9, 11–13, 16b

What Do You Wonder?

- What are some things you do to keep a friendship going strong?
- Where can you look for help in living a moral life, or a life of love?



Created to Love

What does love of neighbor have to do with love of God?

Catholic Faith Words

Holy Trinity the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



Underline the mission of God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

You learned in the last chapter that God made all people in his image. You are more clearly an image of God when you reflect the love of the **Holy Trinity** to others. The Holy Trinity is the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God reveals himself as three unique Divine Persons, but the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God.

Jesus is both divine and human, God and man. Jesus tells us that the mission of God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is to bring people into the love of the Holy Trinity—the perfect love that exists in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God’s plan is for people to live together in love.

From the time of the first humans, people have formed groups. When a group of people live together in love, it is a community. In a community like this, the people have common beliefs, hopes, and goals.

Jesus teaches his disciples.



Right and Responsibility

Each person has individual rights that are balanced with a responsibility to respect and protect the rights of others. No one has unlimited freedom or an unlimited right to the Earth's goods. When everyone's rights are in balance, the Kingdom of God is close at hand.

You can see a good example of this in the story of the early Christians. In this passage, we learn how they lived in the years just after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension—praying, teaching, and caring for others.



Scripture

The Communal Life

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. **Acts 2:42-45**

The early Church lived in community.

Share Your Faith

Reflect What are some practical ways people in a community show their love for one another?

Share Tell a partner about one way this happens in your parish today.

Living as Catholics

What does it mean to live a moral life?

Love One Another

The early Christians formed a community based on a common faith in Jesus Christ and his message. Their faith and love are an example for you today. Faith is your “yes” to all that God has revealed. God created all men and women equal in dignity and in his image. So respect for the rights and needs of others is part of faith.

Just as you cannot live in isolation from others, so you cannot believe alone. You believe as part of a larger community of faith. As a Catholic, you are called to live a good moral life.

Moral Living

The moral life is a way of living in right relationship with God, yourself, and others. Catholic **morality** includes following the Ten Commandments, the teachings of Jesus, and the teachings of the Church. It also includes following the good and just laws that work for the **common good**.

Catholic families and your parish community are places where you can learn to live the Catholic moral life.

➔ How are you called to live as part of a larger community of faith?

An altar server places the Procession Cross during the Introductory Rites of the Mass.

Catholic Faith Words

morality living in right relationship with God, yourself, and others. It is putting your beliefs into action.

common good the good of everyone, with particular concern for those who might be most vulnerable to harm



The Common Good

People who live in true communities work for the common good by

- respecting the human dignity of each person and acknowledging each person's right to freedom and self-expression, as long as others are not hurt.
- making sure that every person has a way to get the things that are necessary for life, such as food, shelter, clothing, and access to doctors.
- providing peace, security, and order in the community.

Connect Your Faith

For the Common Good Beside each picture, explain how these people in your neighborhood or parish work for the common good.



respecting the human dignity of each person



making sure that people can get the things that are necessary for life



providing peace, security, and order

Our Catholic Life

How should you live as part of a community?

Your actions affect the lives of others. As part of the community of God's family, you have a responsibility to those around you. When you act responsibly, you help create a more loving community.

Here are some guidelines for becoming a good member of the community.



1. Choose words from the Word List to complete the sentences.
2. Circle what you are already doing to live as a good community member.
3. Write one way you can be a better community member.

Living in Community

Here are some ways people can live as good community members.

- Know and _____ the Ten Commandments.
- Forgive those who hurt you, and become a peacemaker when there is arguing and fighting.
- Be _____ to those who have less than you do. Share what you can of your time, talents, and possessions.
- Respect the human dignity of everyone, including those who are different from you.
- Help those in _____ —people who are housebound, sick, lonely, afraid, very young, or very old.

Word List

need

generous

live

People of Faith

August 8

Saint Dominic, 1170 –1221

Saint Dominic knew that it was important for people who work for God to be together. He founded a religious order called the Order of Preachers. Sometimes they are called *Dominicans*, after him. His motto was: “to praise, to bless, to preach.” He wanted his followers to always praise God, bless everyone they met, and preach the Gospel. He also wanted them to live together in community. They shared all they had, like the earliest followers of Jesus did. Even today, Dominicans dedicate their lives to telling people the Good News, and they still live in community.



Discuss: How does your family work together for the good of each person?



Learn more about Saint Dominic at alliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Look at what the people in the pictures are doing to help one another.

Decide on one thing you can do next week to help create a more loving community.

List the steps you will take to make this happen.



To do list

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 Let Us Pray

Lectio Divina

This ancient prayer of the Church is a slow praying of the Scriptures in which we listen for what the Holy Spirit wants us to hear.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Come Holy Spirit. Open our ears;

All: open our minds; open our hearts.

Leader: Read John 14:27

First Reflection

Leader: Read John 14:27

Second Reflection

Leader: United as one community, committed to grow as one in God, we pray:

Side 1: Glory be to the Father

Side 2: and to the Son

Side 1: and to the Holy Spirit,

Side 2: as it was in the beginning

Side 1: is now, and ever shall be

Side 2: world without end.

All: Amen.



Sing "Raise Your Voice for Justice"



YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—shows us how to live in right relationship with God, ourselves, and one another.

Scripture



Read **1 John 4:9, 11–13, 16b** to find out why God sent his Son, Jesus, to live among us.

Catholics Believe

- God created people for one another, and all must work for the common good. Such love of neighbor reflects the love of the Holy Trinity.
- No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1905–1912 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Dominic, the founder of the Dominican Order. His life motto was “to praise, to bless, to preach.”

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Being Created for One Another

Most children this age are very social. But the social skills of your child have probably moved beyond the early childhood years of simply wanting to play with other children to forming real bonds of friendship. This is a time of “best friends,” when children form close relationships with one or a few children they prefer to spend their time with. It is the beginning of the deeper relationships they will hopefully enjoy for the rest of their lives.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

When a Catholic says, “God is love,” what do we mean?

As Catholics, we believe God’s nature is a relationship of perfect love—a communion of love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God, “ever-faithful and forgiving, is ultimately experienced by human beings through his Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. His love is stronger than a mother’s love for her child or a bridegroom for his beloved. [...] Jesus has revealed that God’s very being is love” (*USCCA, p. 51*).

LET’S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain the connection between love of neighbor and love of God.
- Talk about how people in your community work for the common good.

LET’S PRAY >>>



Dear God, help us always live in peace and work for the good of each person in our family. Amen.



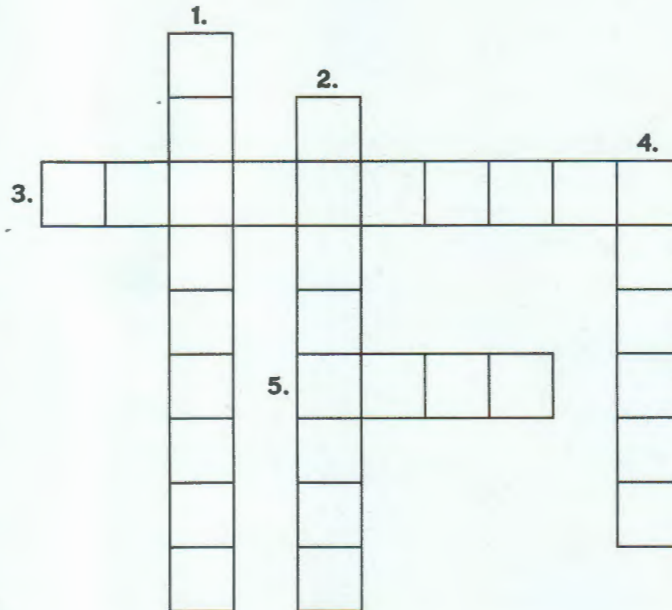
For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 5 Review

A Work with Words Solve the crossword puzzle.

Down

1. A group of people with similar beliefs, working together toward a common goal
2. Living in right relationship with God, self, and others
4. Members of a community _____ on one another.



Across

3. The result of respecting and working for everyone's rights in a community
5. When we show this to others, we follow God's way and live a moral life.

B Check Understanding Circle the word that best completes each statement.

6. Your **(beliefs/actions)** affect the lives of others.
7. Your individual rights are **(balanced/unconnected)** with your responsibility to respect and protect the rights of others.
8. God created **(some/all)** men and women equal in human dignity and in his image.
9. A Catholic community where you can worship and learn is called a **(parish/city)**.
10. As a Catholic, you are called to live a **(good/partly)** moral life.

