

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

# Love God and Neighbor

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Merciful God, help us to know and do your will.

“LORD, teach me the way of your statutes;  
I shall keep them with care.” **Psalm 119:33**

**All:** You ask us, Lord, to love you with our whole heart and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Give us the grace to do what you ask. Amen.



## Scripture

“So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.” Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice of love to his Father for us. So, you holy ones must live as Jesus commanded. Do not ever be greedy, or swear, or be disrespectful. **Based on Ephesians 5:1–5**

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### What Do You Wonder?

- What helps you imitate Christ, to have faith, hope, and love?
- How can you be generous and help people in need?



## The Great Commandment

### How is the Great Commandment like the Ten Commandments?

#### Catholic Faith Words

**Great Commandment**  
the twofold command to love God above all and your neighbor as yourself. It sums up all God's laws.

We all know that rules are important. We understand that obeying rules, even when we don't like them, helps keep order. But Jesus taught that keeping the Ten Commandments includes more than checking off items on a list. Each Commandment shows you a way to love God and love others with your whole heart and soul.

#### Scripture

##### The Greatest Commandment

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." **Matthew 22:37-40**

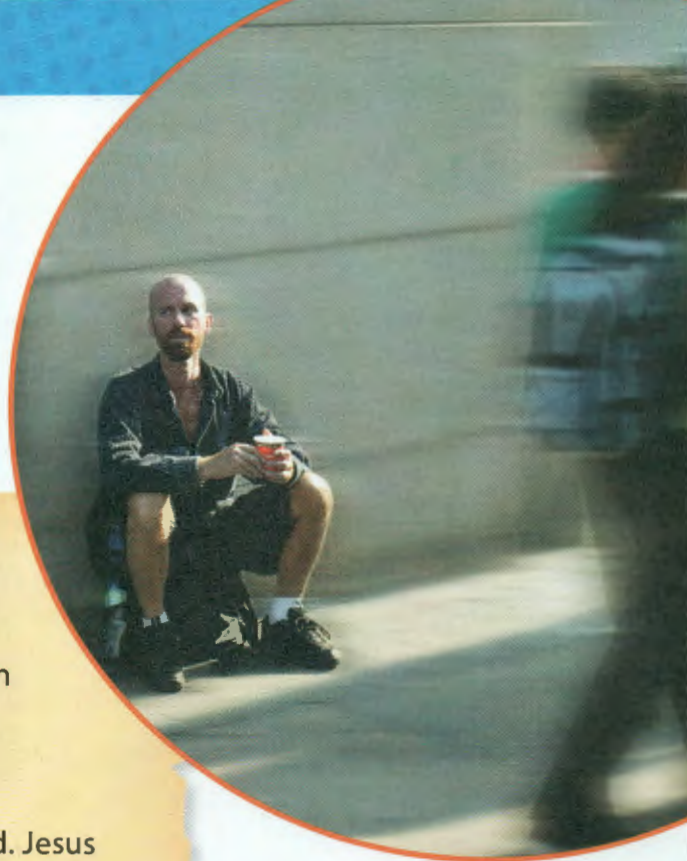
Therefore, the **Great Commandment** to love God above all and your neighbor as yourself sums up the Ten Commandments, the whole law, and what the prophets taught.





## Following Jesus

There are many ways that you can follow Jesus by sharing your love with others. Once, Jesus asked a young man to show his love for others in a very generous way.



### Scripture

#### The Rich Young Man

One day when Jesus was teaching, a young man asked, "What must I do to live forever with God?"

Jesus answered, "Keep the commandments."

"Which commandments?" the young man asked. Jesus listed some of the Ten Commandments for him.

"I keep all those commandments!" the young man said happily. "What else do I need to do?"

"If you wish to be perfect," Jesus said, "go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

The young man's smile faded, for he was very rich. He could not imagine giving everything away, so he went away sad. **Based on Matthew 19:16-22**

Jesus knew that the man's love for his possessions could keep him from loving God completely. When Jesus tested him to see how important his possessions were, the man could not part with them.

➔ **Why could the rich young man not give away his possessions?**

### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** Think about what Jesus tells us about the Great Commandment.

**Share** With a partner, design a billboard that supports this teaching.



## Catholic Faith Words

**Theological Virtues** the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, which are gifts from God that guide our relationship with him

**faith** the theological virtue that makes it possible for us to believe in God and all that he helps us understand about himself. Faith leads us to obey God.

**hope** the theological virtue that helps us trust in the true happiness God wants us to have and in Jesus' promises of eternal life, and to rely on the help of the Holy Spirit

**charity** the theological virtue of love. It directs us to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves, for the love of God.

## Love God

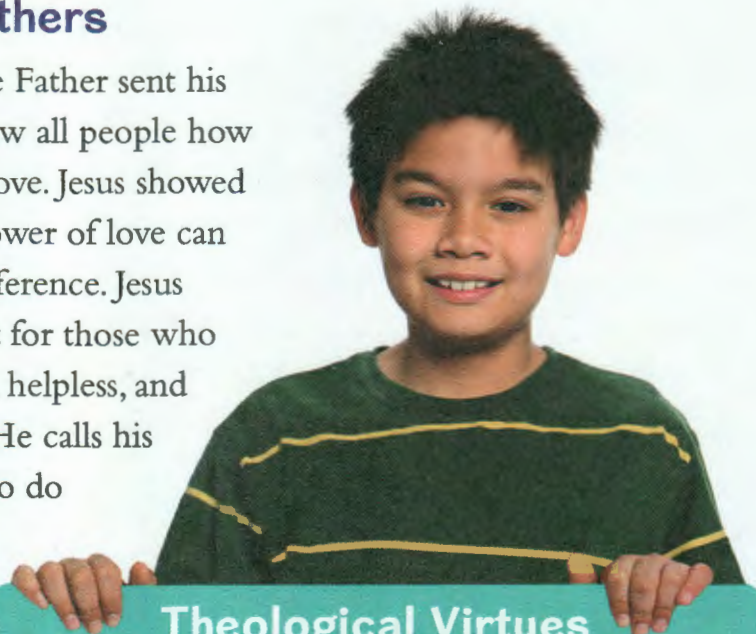
### How can you live the Great Commandment?

The first step in living the Great Commandment is to understand that God wants you to love him. The **Theological Virtues** help you to live in a loving relationship with God. Virtues are good spiritual habits that strengthen you and help you to do what is right and good. They develop over time with our practice and openness to God's grace.

The Theological Virtues of **faith**, **hope** and **charity** are gifts from God. When we use these gifts, we are drawn into a deeper relationship with God. We also come to a deeper understanding that loving God leads to sharing God's love with others.

## Love Others

God the Father sent his Son to show all people how to live in love. Jesus showed that the power of love can make a difference. Jesus cared most for those who were poor, helpless, and suffering. He calls his followers to do the same.



Theological Virtues	
<b>Faith</b>	God created you with the ability to know and trust him. You make the choice to seek God and believe in him.
<b>Hope</b>	This virtue helps you trust in God and the happiness he wants you to have.
<b>Charity</b>	The greatest of all Theological Virtues. This gift makes it possible for you to love God above everything else, and others as yourself.



## Acts of Charity

The strength of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent, gives you the power to reach out to others in love, as Jesus did. The Holy Spirit breathed charity into you at your Baptism.

Jesus' Great Commandment tells you to love others as you love yourself. Christians see the needs of others and help meet those needs. The Church has named seven acts of kindness you can do to meet the physical needs of others. They are called the **Corporal Works of Mercy**. The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** name what you can do for others to care for the needs of their heart, mind, and soul. See page 317 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book for the full list of Works of Mercy.

### Catholic Faith Words

**Corporal Works of Mercy**  
actions that show care for the physical needs of others

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**  
actions that address the needs of the heart, mind, and soul



### Connect Your Faith

**Recognize Works of Mercy** Draw lines to match the Work of Mercy with an action. Then circle the actions that you have done.

Corporal: Clothe the naked.

Corporal: Shelter the homeless.

Spiritual: Forgive all injuries.

Corporal: Feed the hungry.

Spiritual: Comfort the sorrowful.

Corporal: Visit the sick.

Spiritual: Pray for the living and the dead.

Volunteer to help serve a meal at a shelter.

Attend a funeral.

Donate clothes to those in need.

Listen to a friend who's really sad.

Visit a homebound relative.

Donate money to a homeless shelter.

Accept an apology when someone says they're sorry.



# Our Catholic Life

## How can you help people as Jesus did?

People all over the world are in need. Some of them are in your parish or neighborhood. If you pay attention, you may find that you know people who need your loving help.

When you think of people in need, do you imagine people who are homeless, hungry, and sick? The Corporal Works of Mercy teach us that there are many kinds of need. It is not always easy to see what those needs are. Here are some people you might see who need your help.



Write how you could help each of these people in need.

### Many Ways to Help

**Clothe the naked**

A child on the basketball court loses his sweatshirt.

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**Shelter the homeless**

A neighbor child forgets her house key.

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**Feed the hungry**

A classmate drops his lunch tray.

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**Give drink to the thirsty**

A teammate does not have a water bottle.

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**Visit the imprisoned**

A neighbor has no way to get to the grocery store.

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**Visit the sick**

Your cousin has a broken leg.

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**Bury the dead**

The mother of one of your classmates dies.

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# People of Faith

## Saint Katharine Drexel, 1858–1955

March 3

Saint Katharine Drexel came from a wealthy family, but she devoted her money and her life to those who were poor. She did missionary work among African Americans and Native Americans. She insisted that all people be treated fairly, no matter what their race. She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and also established schools on Native American reservations and the first and only Catholic university for African Americans. She believed it was her life's work to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy.



**Discuss:** What Works of Mercy have you done?



Learn more about  
Saint Katharine Drexel  
at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Write or draw** one way in which you will try to show your love for God and others on each day next week.

Mon.

Tues.

Wed.

Thurs.

Fri.



 Let Us Pray

## Celebration of the Word

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** God of Mercy, we gather to remind ourselves of your love and mercy.

**Reader 1:** A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:2-7.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Reader 2:** Lord, give us the gift of patience.

**All:** We want to live in your love.

**Reader 3:** Lord, give us the gift of kindness.

**All:** We want to live in your love.

**Reader 4:** Lord, help us think of others.

**All:** We want to live in your love.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Whatsoever You Do"

Whatsoever you do to the least of my people,  
that you do unto me.

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

*This chapter helps students deepen their understanding of the Theological Virtues and how these virtues help us live the Great Commandment and practice Works of Mercy.*

### Scripture

 Read **Ephesians 5:1–5** to find out what those who say they love God must have.

### Catholics Believe

- The Great Commandment is to love God with all your heart, strength, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself.
- The Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity help us to love God and grow closer to him.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2055, 2083, 2196 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Katharine Drexel, who dedicated her life and her fortune to educating African Americans and Native Americans.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand the Great Commandment** The continued concrete thinking of fourth-graders means that they will probably continue to see love for God and for neighbor as a series of outward actions. This is not far from the truth, for it is certainly the things that we do that tell whether we really have love for God and neighbor. Children your child's age are growing in their ability to see relationships between these larger Commandments and smaller choices in everyday life. They can better determine whether or not an individual action is loving toward God or toward their neighbor. This new ability will help them to begin to make decisions in new situations.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>


*How does your relationship with God affect how you love others?*

The more aware we are of God's love for us, the more that love moves through us. As Catholics, we know that "Scripturally and theologically, the Christian moral life begins with a loving relationship with God, a covenant love made possible by the sacrifice of Christ. The Commandments and other moral rules are given to us as ways of protecting the values that foster love of God and others. They provide us with ways to express love, sometimes by forbidding whatever contradicts love" (*USCCA, p. 318*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name some of the Works of Mercy.
- Talk about a time of need when someone helped you by performing one of the Works of Mercy.

## LET'S PRAY >>>

 Saint Katharine, pray for us that we may follow the way of Jesus. Help us live out the Corporal Works of Mercy in our daily lives. Amen.

 For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).



# Chapter 8 Review

**A Work with Words** Use all of the words in the Word Bank to write five of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Use the lines below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**B Check Understanding** Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

6. The Spiritual Works of Mercy show care for the physical needs of others.

True

False

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Only adults have the ability to care for and help others.

True

False

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Hope makes it possible for us to believe in God and all he has revealed.

True

False

\_\_\_\_\_

9. The Great Commandment can be restated in this way:  
“First love God, and then love others as you love yourself.”

True

False

\_\_\_\_\_

10. The virtue of charity directs us to love God above all things.

True

False

\_\_\_\_\_

## Word Bank

the

drink

dead

feed

shelter

bury

hungry

clothe

give

thirsty

homeless

naked

