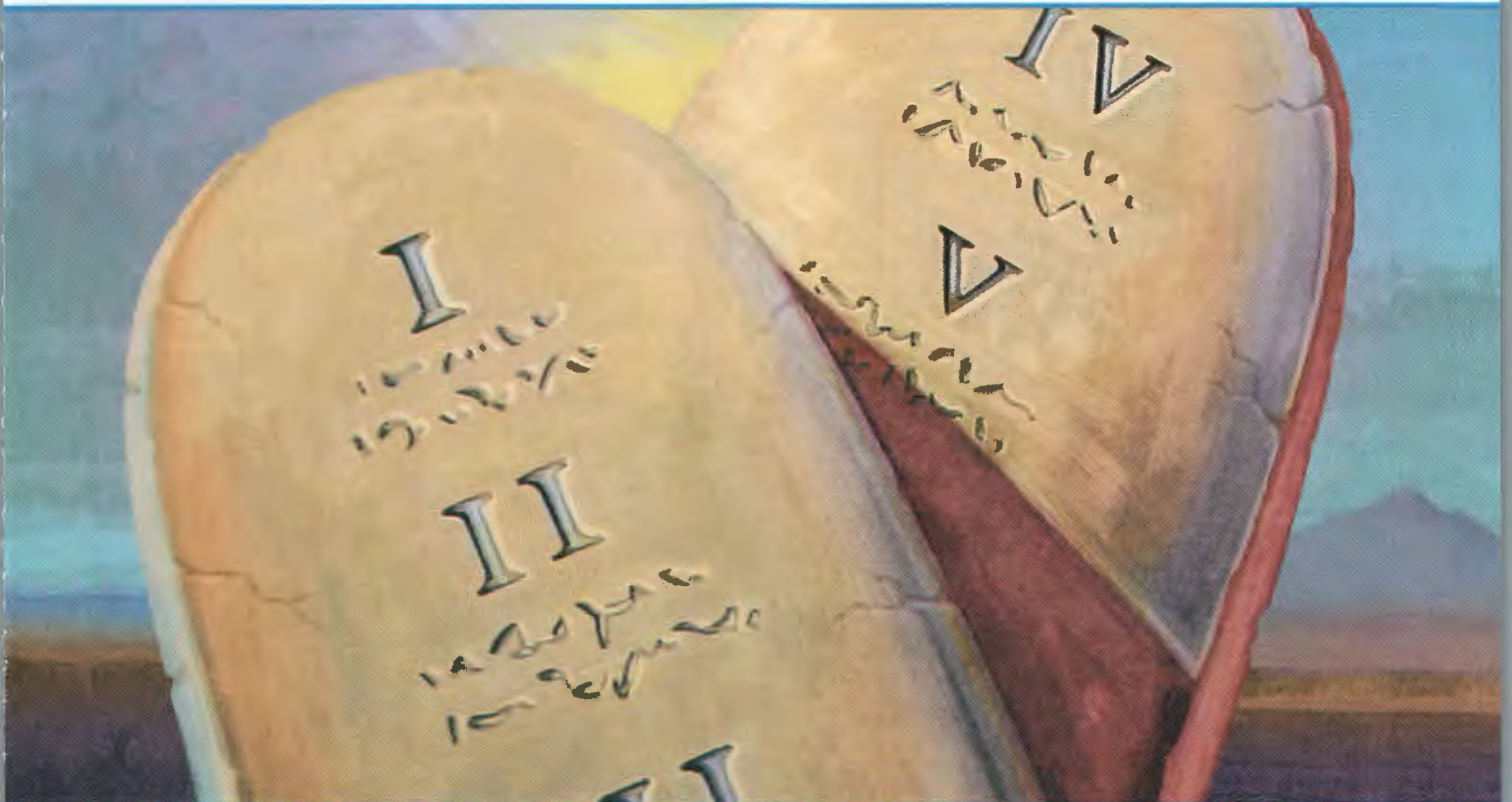


# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

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**OurSundayVisitor**

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# Live in the Truth

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Your words, O Lord, are precious and true.

“Teach me, LORD, your way  
that I may walk in your truth.” **Psalm 86:11**

**All:** May our words echo yours, O Lord, so that your truth may be told. Amen.

## Scripture

“You have heard that it was said to those who came before you, ‘Do not tell lies to each other, but make good to the Lord all that you promise.’ Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’” **Based on Matthew 5:33, 37**



### What Do You Wonder?

- Is it okay not to tell the truth so you don't hurt someone's feelings?
- Is lying really all that bad?



## Witness to the Truth

### How do people show that they value truth?

Saint Thomas More, an important official in England in the sixteenth century, was imprisoned for refusing to tell a lie.

### *Saint Thomas More*

Saint Thomas had an important decision to make. In a letter to his daughter, he discussed his dilemma.



My dearest Meg,

Your father greets you with all his affection but not much hope. The dilemma I face will not soon go away.

I have been imprisoned now for some months. All I have to do to be set free is to take the Oath of Supremacy. But how can I? If I take the oath, I will be saying that Henry VIII is the supreme head of the Catholic Church in England. You know that my Catholic faith is strong, and I believe that the Pope is the true head of the Catholic Church.

King Henry is angry. He is afraid that if I go against him, other people will follow my example. I am being forced to make a choice: be honest and be killed, or tell a lie and live.

Pray for me.

Your loving father,  
Thomas More

- ➔ What important decision did Saint Thomas More have to make?
- ➔ What would you do if you were in Thomas' position?



## Speak and Act the Truth

Saint Thomas More chose to remain true to his beliefs and speak the truth. As a result, the king had him killed, but the Catholic Church named him a Saint. Many Saints have suffered torture and death for the sake of their faith. A person who stays faithful to Christ and suffers and dies rather than denying the truth is called a **martyr**. Martyrs live the truth by backing up their words with actions.

You will probably not be called on to be a martyr. But every follower of Jesus is called to live in the truth. By your actions, you show your faithfulness to Jesus and the truth of his message.



### Catholic Faith Words

**martyr** a person who gives up his or her life to witness to the truth of Christ and the faith. The word *martyr* means "witness."

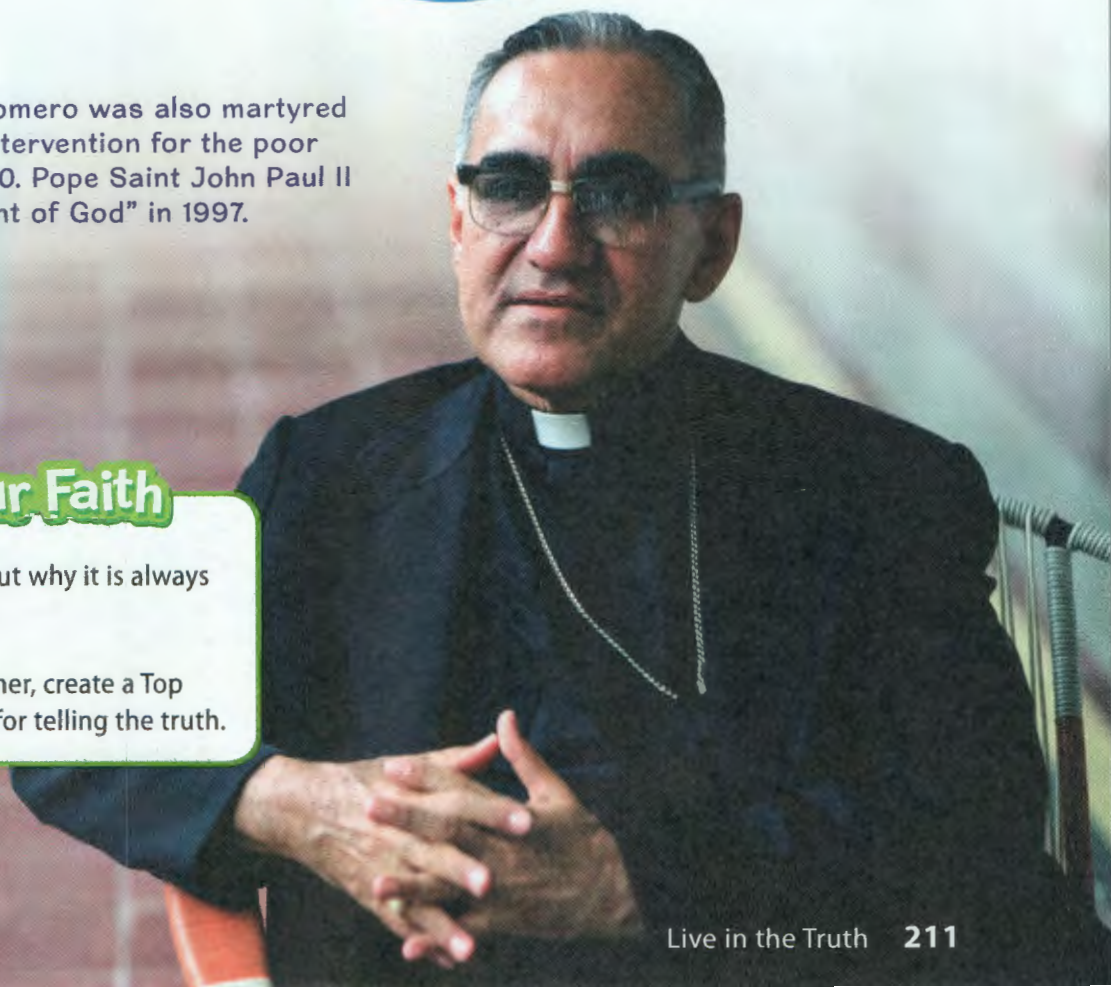
Jean Donovan was an American missionary martyr. She was killed with three other women in 1980, while working as part of a Diocesan Mission Project in El Salvador.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was also martyred for his beliefs and intervention for the poor in El Salvador in 1980. Pope Saint John Paul II named him a "Servant of God" in 1997.

### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** Think about why it is always best to tell the truth.

**Share** With a partner, create a Top Three list of reasons for telling the truth.





## The Eighth Commandment

### What does the Eighth Commandment call you to do?

God is the source of all truth. His Word and his law call people to live in the truth. The Eighth Commandment says this: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The Eighth Commandment forbids lying, or purposely not telling the truth. Lying can take many forms. If a person lies in court when under oath, he or she commits perjury, or false witness. Gossip is talking about another person behind his or her back. Gossip may or may not be a lie, but all gossip can harm the good reputation of another person.

All lies are unjust and unloving. All require **reparation**, or repair. Reparation may be as simple as an apology, or it may take more work, such as trying to help a person get back the reputation you have hurt.

➔ Why is reparation important?

### Catholic Faith Words

**reparation** an action taken to repair the damage done from sin

**prudence** the Cardinal Virtue that helps us be practical and make correct decisions on what is right and good, with the help of the Holy Spirit and a well-formed conscience



When we make a bad choice and lie, it affects others.

One way to repair the harm is to apologize and ask forgiveness.





## Jesus Is the Truth

Living in the spirit of the Eighth Commandment is more than not lying. You must choose to act with **prudence** and make correct decisions on what is right and good. When you are truthful, you are living as a follower of Jesus, who always told the truth.

### Scripture

#### The Truth Will Set You Free

[Jesus said] "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. . . . I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 8:31-32, 14:6**

People trusted what Jesus did and said. When you are truthful, people trust you. When you promise to tell the truth, you have a special duty. Let your "yes" mean "yes" and your "no" mean "no." Telling the truth will set you free to follow Jesus and to live in love.

### Connect Your Faith

**Live the Truth** Read the following list, and mark an X if a statement talks about living in truth and an O if it does not. For each statement marked with an O, tell one way the person could make up for his or her wrong choice.

- Juanita heard an unkind story about a classmate.
- She did not repeat it.
- Scott bragged falsely about how good he was at sports.
- Samantha told her parents that she was going to the library, but instead she went to the park.
- Matt discovered that his friend had shoplifted, but he did not gossip about it.





## Our Catholic Life

### How can you live in the spirit of the Eighth Commandment?

Sometimes being honest can be difficult. It is never easy to admit to having done something wrong when you know that you may be punished. But being honest with others and yourself is what God asks of you in the Eighth Commandment.

Imagine what your life would be like if no one trusted you. No friend would tell you a secret. No one would believe anything that you said.

Sounds lonely, doesn't it? Besides, dishonesty is against God's law, and it can lead to hurting others. God's grace and practicing virtues can help us choose honesty.



Use words from the first column to fill in the sentences in the second column.

### Choosing Truth

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use words that show _____ for other people.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>actions</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not _____ or tell lies about someone else.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>respect</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure that your _____ reflect your true self. Don't exaggerate, brag, or act better than others.</li> </ul> |
| <b>rumors</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell the _____, especially when you have promised to do so.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>prejudiced</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not spread _____ about others.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>gossip</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid being _____ against those who are different.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>truth</b>      |  |



# People of Faith

May 30

## Saint Joan of Arc, 1412–1431

It isn't always easy to tell the truth. Saint Joan of Arc became a martyr because she told the truth. Joan was a teenager when she had visions and heard voices. They told her to lead an army to fight for truth and save France from invaders. She bravely told the truth about her visions and voices and saved France in many battles. However, Joan was accused of being against the Church and of being a witch. She was burned at the stake. Many books and movies have been written about her.



**Discuss:** Talk about a time when you told the truth even though it was difficult.



Learn more about Saint Joan at [alliveinchrist.osv.com](http://alliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Design** a poster that explains the importance of telling the truth. Include a slogan to make your message clear, and explain your poster to your family and friends. You may also want to write your slogan on a piece of paper to keep with you in your pocket as a reminder.





 Let Us Pray

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** Whenever we are afraid to tell the truth,

**All:** Spirit of Truth, guide us!

**Leader:** Whenever we are tempted to gossip,

**All:** Spirit of Truth, guide us!

**Leader:** Whenever we are faced with choices about telling the truth,

**All:** Spirit of Truth, guide us!

**Leader:** Whenever we falsely judge another,

**All:** Spirit of Truth, guide us!

**Leader:** God of all truth, whenever we face choices about telling the truth, guide us to your light. Give us strength to make good choices. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Spirit, Come Down"  
Spirit, Spirit, Spirit,  
come down from Heaven.  
Spirit, Spirit,  
and seal us with your love.

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# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains the Eighth Commandment and explores Jesus' call to live in the truth and repair the damage done from sin.

### Scripture

 Read **Matthew 5:33, 37** to find out about the relationship between grace and truth.

### Catholics Believe

- Because God is truth, his people are called to live in the truth.
- The Eighth Commandment forbids lying.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1741, 2465–2470 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Joan of Arc. As a result of her visions, she saved France in many battles. She is the patron of women in the military.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Telling the Truth** Your child is probably a concrete thinker who understands cause and effect. Unlike preschoolers, children this age know that the truth doesn't change just because we want it to. They also know that adults don't know everything, and that sometimes we can be fooled. It's important for children to see the connection between truth, trust, and relationship. We cannot really be close to people if we tell them lies, no matter how small the lies, because relationship implies trust.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>


How important is truth in your relationships?

Most of us expect honesty in our relationships even if we do not always welcome it. Truth is central to our relationship with God. As Catholics, we know that "God is the source of truth. Jesus not only taught the truth; he also said, 'I am the truth' (cf. John 14:6). The Hebrew word for truth, *emeth*, refers to truth in words and truthfulness in deeds. Jesus both personalized truth and spoke nothing but the truth" (*USCCA*, p. 431).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain the Eighth Commandment.
- Share a time when you had to decide to lie or tell the truth, or when someone else lied to you. How did it feel? What did you do?

## LET'S PRAY >>>

 Saint Joan of Arc, pray for us that we may be strong in our faith and always have the courage to speak and live the truth. 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 15 Review

**A Work with Words** Fill in the circle next to the answer that best completes each statement.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who gives up his or her life to witness to the truth of Christ and the faith.  
 priest  
 deacon  
 martyr
2. \_\_\_\_\_ are sins against the Eighth Commandment.  
 Lying and gossip  
 Stealing and lying  
 Gossip and murder
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the action taken to repair the damage done by sin.  
 Perjury  
 Sin  
 Reparation
4. The Eighth Commandment is “You shall not \_\_\_\_\_.”  
 kill  
 bear false witness against your neighbor  
 keep holy the Lord’s Day

5. \_\_\_\_\_ are called to live in the truth.

- Only martyrs  
 Only priests and deacons  
 All of us

**B Check Understanding** Complete each sentence with the correct word from the Word Bank.

## Word Bank

martyr                      truth  
prudence                gossip  
lying

6. Jesus calls you to live in the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Thomas More was a \_\_\_\_\_ and a Saint.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is purposely not telling the truth.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is talking about another person behind his or her back.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is being practical and making correct decisions with the help of the Holy Spirit and a well-formed conscience.

