

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

Living the Covenant

Let Us Pray

Leader: Teach us, O God, to follow your Commandments.
Help us grow to love others as much as you love us.

“Blessed those whose way is blameless,
who walk by the law of the LORD.
Blessed those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with all their heart.” **Psalm 119:1–2**

All: Teach us, O God, to follow your Commandments.
Help us grow to love others as much as you love us.
Amen.

Scripture

[Jesus said,] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” **Matthew 5:17–19**

What Do You Wonder?

- Why do Christians follow the Ten Commandments given to Israel?
- What is the “New Law” of Jesus?

God's Faithful Presence

What did God give the Israelites when he gave them the Ten Commandments?

An important rule of loving and lasting relationships is fidelity, or “faithful presence.” God promised the Hebrews that he would be their faithful God and would protect them always. He also asked the Hebrews to be faithful and obedient to his covenant and to his laws.

The Ten Commandments

As the Israelites traveled through the desert, food began to run out. The people complained to Moses that it would have been better to remain as slaves in Egypt than to die of hunger in the desert! God responded by providing quail and a special food called manna. (See Exodus 16:1–11.)

Scripture

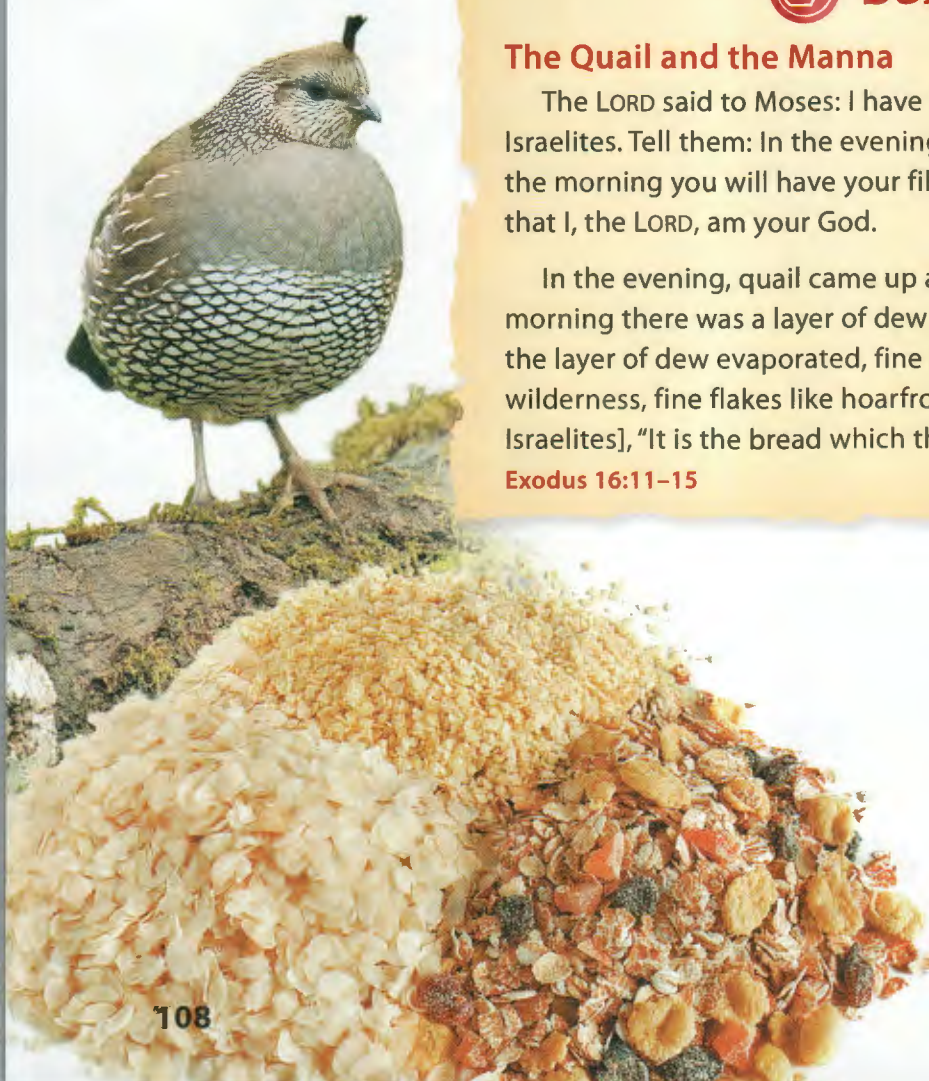
The Quail and the Manna

The LORD said to Moses: I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will have your fill of bread, and then you will know that I, the LORD, am your God.

In the evening, quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning there was a layer of dew all about the camp, and when the layer of dew evaporated, fine flakes were on the surface of the wilderness, fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. ... Moses told [the Israelites], “It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.”

Exodus 16:11–15

When the water ran out, the people complained again. So God commanded Moses to strike a rock, and water poured out. Even after these miracles, the people of Israel still complained. (See Exodus 17:1–7.)



God wanted the Israelites to be a holy people who would understand his loving relationship with all creation. When the people reached Mount Sinai, the Lord spoke to Moses at the top of the mountain and gave him the law of the covenant. The cornerstone of the law that God gave to Moses is the Ten Commandments. (See Exodus 19:1—20:17.)

God's Laws

God knew that his laws would nourish the Israelites even more than the manna and the quail. He knew that his laws would strengthen their relationships. The Ten Commandments appear in the Bible in both the Book of Exodus and the Book of Deuteronomy. The Ten Commandments are also called the **Decalogue**, which means “ten words.” (Go to page 315 for a listing of the Ten Commandments.)

The Commandments reflect the heart of the covenant. The first three Commandments tell how to honor and respect God and his holiness. The other seven Commandments help people respect one another out of love for God. For example, the Fifth Commandment teaches us to respect the lives of all people because of our shared human dignity that comes from being created in God's image.

The Commandments were revealed by God, but they also express the basic law that is written in the human heart. That law, called the **natural moral law**, is unchangeable because it rests on an order that is present in all creation. The natural moral law is based on God's eternal law. It is the law written in your heart that helps you know what is good and what is evil.

God also gave his People other rules, which are contained in the Torah, or the first five books of the Bible. *Torah* means “law” or “doctrine.” It contains stories that tell how God wants people to live and be faithful to him.

Catholic Faith Words

Decalogue another name for the Ten Commandments; the summary of laws that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. They tell us what must be done to live by God's covenant.

natural moral law rules about goodness that are written in our hearts and are natural to follow. However, our awareness of natural law can be clouded by Original Sin.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Review the Ten Commandments (see page 315). Choose two you think are most challenging for people your age and explain why.

Share With a partner, discuss your ideas and how each Commandment calls us to live.





Jesus' New Law

How do the Ten Commandments relate to the teaching of Jesus?

Even after Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, the people of Israel sometimes chose to disobey God. But their covenant with God helped the Israelites grow as a people as they wandered in the desert for forty years before crossing into the Promised Land. Through the new covenant, all faithful people are promised a place in the **Kingdom of God**.

The Teaching of Jesus

Jesus respected the Ten Commandments and used them as a starting point for his own teaching. When asked about which Commandment was the greatest, Jesus referred to two Commandments, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (**Matthew 22:37, 39**). Together, these two Commandments are called the Great Commandment. Jesus said these two laws included all other Commandments. Later, at the Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and told them, “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (**John 13:34**). Everyone would know they were his disciples if they loved one another.

Catholic Faith Words

Kingdom of God God’s rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth

New Commandment Jesus’ command for his disciples to love one another as he has loved us

For those who are faithful to Jesus' **New Commandment**, God promises everlasting life and happiness with him in Heaven. The Holy Spirit was sent to help you believe in Jesus and faithfully live by his New Commandment.

➔ **What do the Ten Commandments, the Great Commandment, and the New Commandment all have in common?**

Connect Your Faith

Commandment Connections Match the words of Jesus, the Son of God, with some of God's "ten words." Then describe the similarities and differences you see.

The Decalogue	The Words of Jesus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am the Lord, your God. You shall not have strange gods before me. ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> But I say to you, do not swear at all (Matthew 5:34). ●
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain. ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37). ●
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day. ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One's life does not consist of possessions (Luke 12:15). ●
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God (John 3:21). ●
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. ● 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath (Mark 2:27). ●
Similarities	Differences
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



Our Catholic Life

How can you deepen your friendship with God?

God befriended you first. His love brought you into existence, keeps you alive, and remains with you forever. Being a close friend of God involves being faithful to him. Faith, obedience, respect, and trust are ways to respond to God's friendship and live out the first three Commandments.



In the spaces below, describe how you would use these ways to live out the Commandments.

The First Three Commandments

<p>Faith</p>	<p>Your faith is built on your relationship with God. You are asked to have faith in a Divine Person, Jesus Christ. He gives you a pledge of absolute reliability. Through the Holy Spirit, he will be your companion through every minute of your life and into a new life beyond.</p>
<p>Obedience</p>	<p>God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit promise you companionship, care, and eternal life. In return, you give God your love, praise, and obedience. You try to understand what Jesus asks of you every day. Then you follow through by doing the right thing.</p> <hr/>
<p>Respect</p>	<p>You respect God by putting him first in your life, following his laws, making him a priority, participating in Mass and other Sacraments, and giving him time in prayer. You also respect the God who created everyone by respecting the human dignity of everyone. You respond to Jesus by loving others.</p> <hr/>
<p>Trust</p>	<p>You are invited to have a deep friendship with God. You can lean on him as you would lean against a solid rock. If you truly trust him, he will not let you down.</p> <hr/>

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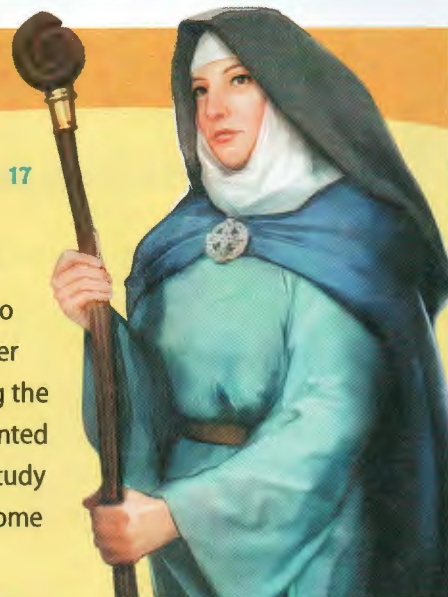


People of Faith

November 17

Saint Hilda of Whitby, 614–680

Saint Hilda of Whitby was a princess who lived in England. For half of her life, she lived at the royal court. When she was thirty-three, she decided to devote the rest of her life to God. She became a nun and later founded her own monastery at Whitby. Because she knew the importance of studying the Bible, everyone who joined her monastery had to read Scripture. She wanted them to read the Bible every day. She also encouraged her followers to study Latin. Because she valued education for both boys and girls, she has become the patron of many schools all over the world.



Discuss: What are some ways the Commandments have guided you in your life?



Learn more about Saint Hilda at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Choose one Commandment that you will focus on following every day this week. Write a short phrase or motto on the scroll that tells how to obey this Commandment.

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Let Us Pray

Celebration of the Word

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: The Ten Commandments, the Great Commandment, and Jesus' New Commandment help us be faithful to God, ourselves, and others. Imagine that we are gathered with Jesus and the Apostles at the Last Supper. Listen to and reflect on Jesus' words to us.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Read John 15:11–17.
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: We turn our hearts and minds to God and ask him to bless those who love us and those whom we love.
Pray aloud your prayers one by one. After each, respond:

All: Lord, hear the prayer of your faithful ones.

Leader: Let us pray.
Bow your heads as the leader prays.

All: Amen.



Sing "Love Has Come"

Word of God, enthroned,
dwell in us forevermore.
Love has come to show the way.
Hallelujah, peace be with us.
Love has come to show the way.

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter teaches the Ten Commandments are laws meant to strengthen the relationship between God and his People, and explains Jesus' New Commandment in relationship to them.

Scripture



Read **Matthew 5:17–19** to find out what Jesus teaches about God's Commandments.

Catholics Believe

- The Ten Commandments help you stay close to God and in right relationship with others.
- The Ten Commandments are the laws of God's covenant with the Israelites, which was revealed in its fullness in Jesus.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1949–1953, 1961–1966 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Hilda of Whitby, who was known for valuing education and promoting the study of Scripture.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand God's Commandments Because they are learning to be more independent and feeling more grown up, your child might approach rules with a certain bit of skepticism. It can help to understand that God's laws are given to us as a way to help us be the best that we can be—to find happiness in being and doing exactly what we were made for.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

What is the difference between a medical professional who does what is necessary and one whose actions come from the heart of compassion?

Most of us can think of a time when the compassion of a medical professional helped ease our discomfort. Because Jesus had compassion, he knew that following the Commandments without a heart of love was not enough. Jesus brought a new law centered on love. As Catholics, we know that “in Christ we have been called to a New Covenant and a New Law that fulfills and perfects the Old Law. We also are invited to experience God's love for us and to return that love to God and to our neighbor” (*USCCA p. 325*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you about the Ten Commandments.
- Together, describe what family life looks like when everyone follows Jesus' New Commandment to love one another as he has loved us.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Hilda, pray for us that we may follow your example of education and worship by treasuring and studying the Commandments. Amen.



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

Chapter 6 Review

A Work with Words Complete each statement.

1. The Ten Commandments are also called the _____ which means “ten words.”
2. The Israelites called the first five books of the Bible the _____.
3. God asks you for your faith, _____, respect, and trust.
4. The basic law written in your heart is called the _____.
5. The New Commandment that Jesus gave to his followers is “_____.”

B Check Understanding Write a brief summary of the chapter that includes the five terms from the Word Bank.

6–10. _____

Word Bank

-
- fidelity
- Torah
- Decalogue
- Jesus' New Commandment
- natural moral law

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Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com for an interactive review.