

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

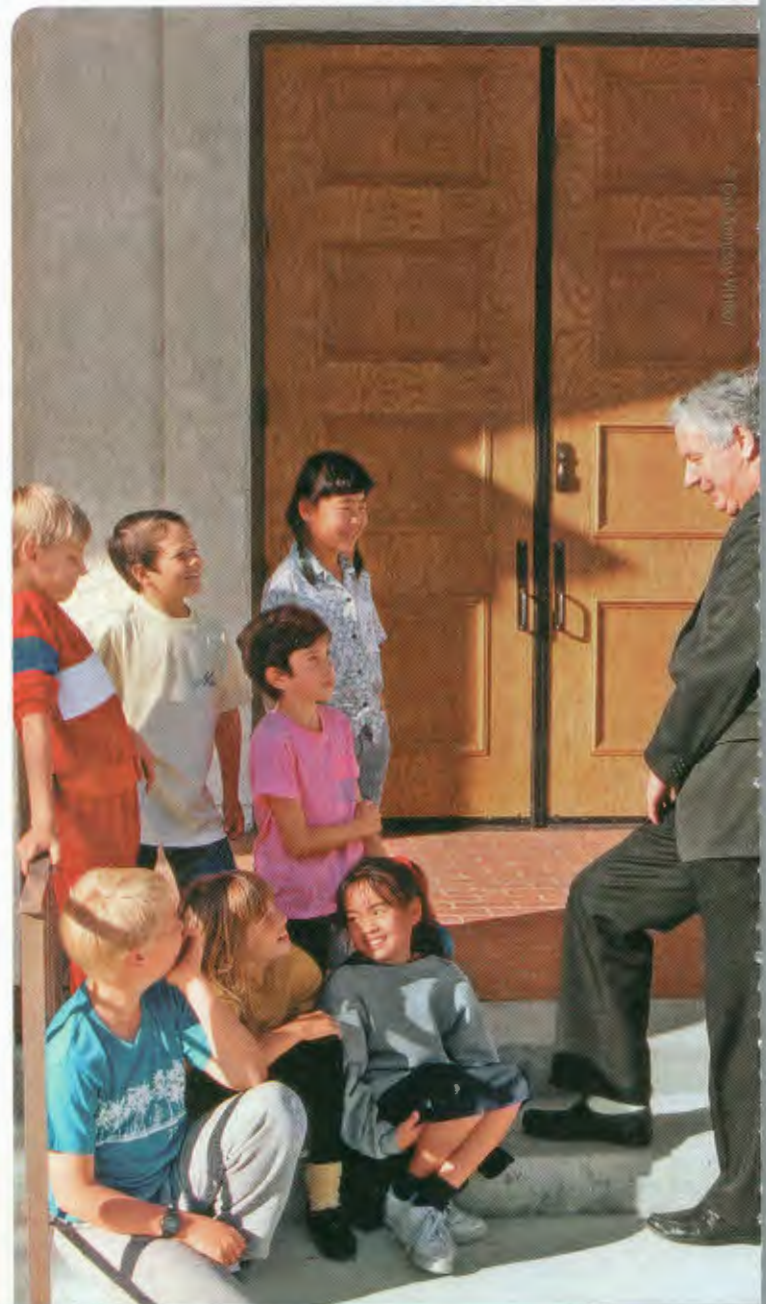
Morality



Our Catholic Tradition

- Catholic morality is rooted in the Great Commandment, Jesus' New Commandment, and the Beatitudes. (CCC, 1984, 2055)
- Our conscience helps us to know what is right and wrong, and to know when we have sinned or been unjust. (CCC, 1778)
- In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation God's forgiveness is given through the Church to those who have sincere sorrow and confess their sins. (CCC, 1422)

How do the Ten Commandments and the Precepts of the Church help you to live a life of charity, justice, and peace?



The Great Commandment

Let Us Pray

Leader: Loving God, help me to cherish and follow your law.

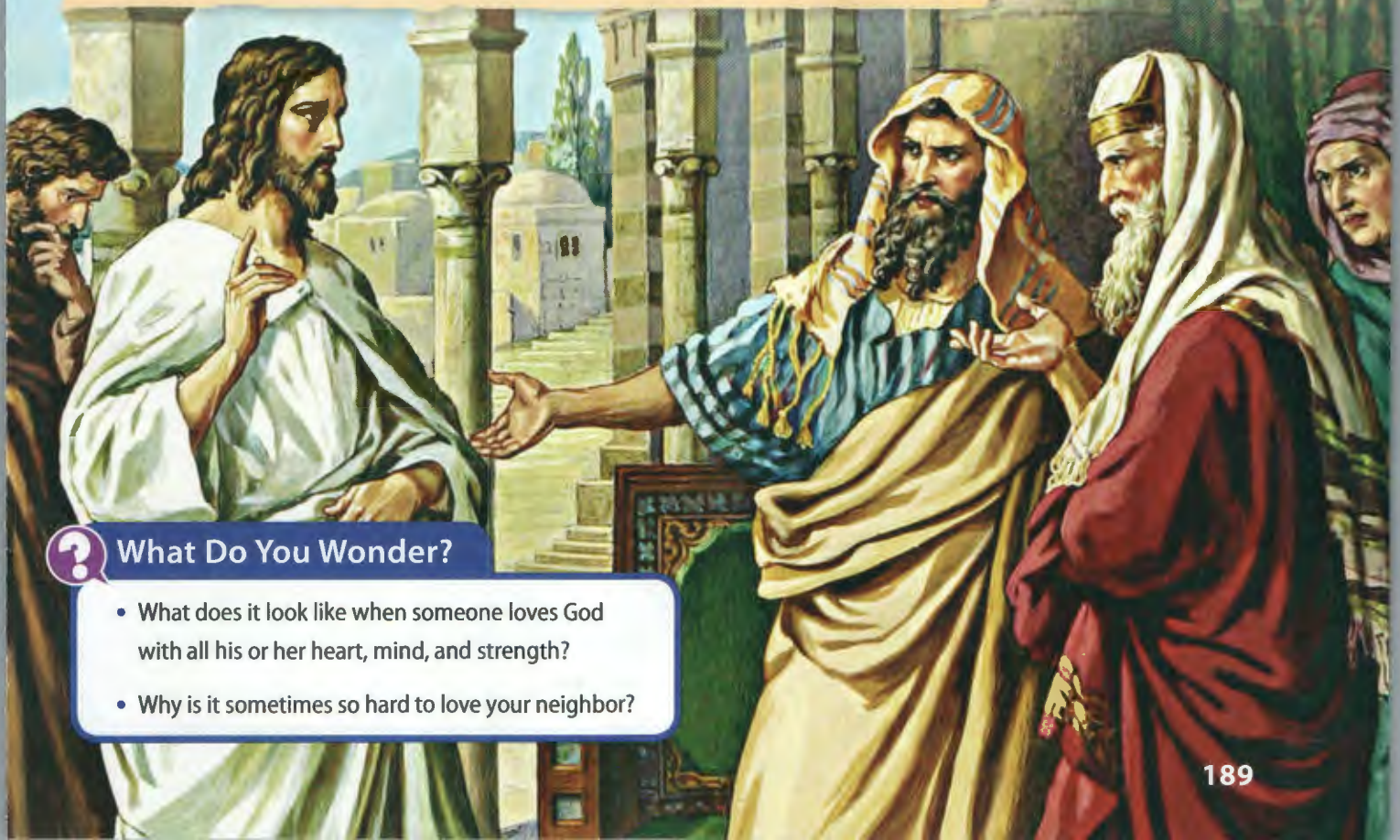
“The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart.” **Psalm 19:8a, 9a**

All: Loving God, help me to cherish and follow your law.

Scripture

[A scribe asked Jesus], “Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **Mark 12:28–31**



What Do You Wonder?

- What does it look like when someone loves God with all his or her heart, mind, and strength?
- Why is it sometimes so hard to love your neighbor?

Ephesians 2:19–22 tells us that we are “citizens... in the household of God... through [Jesus] the structure is held together; In him you are built into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

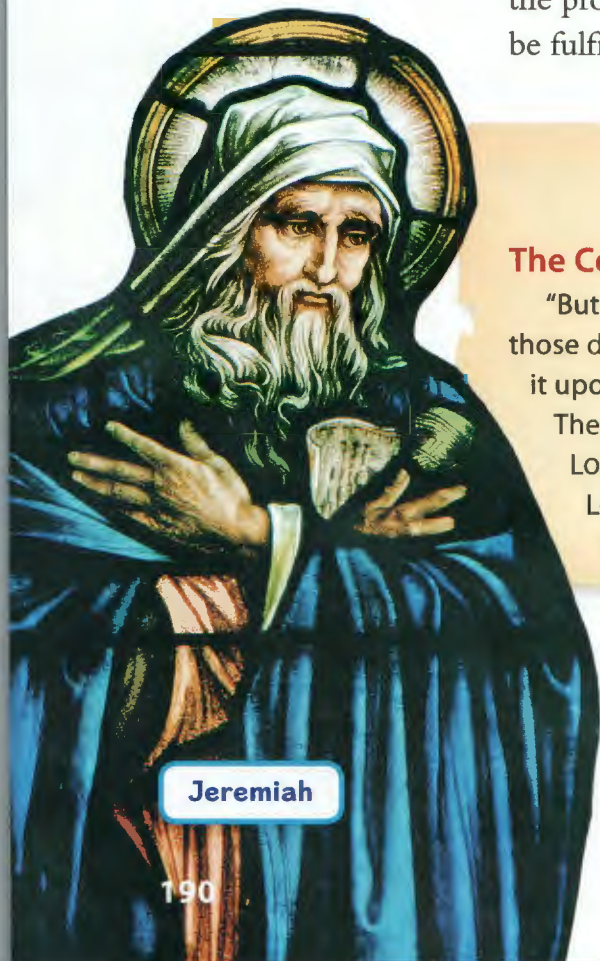


Old Law and New Law

What is the New Law?

Christians understand the Law of the Old Testament as the first step and a preparation for the New Law to be revealed by Jesus. The Old Law is summed up in the Ten Commandments. These Commandments are necessary to follow because they are the Word of God, and they will endure forever.

The great prophets of Israel, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah, tried to call the people back to the wisdom of God’s Law and remind them of God’s covenant of love with them. God revealed through the prophets that a new day would come when the Law would be fulfilled. This is how God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah.



Jeremiah

Scripture

The Covenant

“But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days—[says] the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. They will no longer teach their friends and relatives, ‘Know the LORD!’ Everyone, from least to greatest, shall know me—[says] the LORD—for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin.” **Jeremiah 31:33–34**



Underline the law God has written in our hearts.

The Law Fulfilled

The people of Israel followed the Law of Moses, which included the Ten Commandments and other regulations. When Jesus came, he interpreted the Law in a new way.

Catholic Faith Words

Transfiguration the revelation of Jesus in glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John

Scripture

The Transfiguration of Jesus

One day, Jesus invited Peter, James, and John to pray with him on a high mountain. While Jesus prayed, he suddenly became radiant with light. Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke with him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The disciples were frightened, but Jesus reassured them. **Based on Matthew 17:1-8**

This event is known as the **Transfiguration**, in which Jesus was revealed in glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John as the fulfillment of the Law, represented by Moses, and of the prophets, represented by Elijah. God also showed that he had given his Son authority and that Jesus' words are true forever.

➔ How would you have reacted if you had been there that day?



Share Your Faith

Reflect The Law taught the Jewish people how to live in right relationship with God. Christians believe that Jesus is the perfect example of this. How are you living in right relationship with God right now? What could you be doing differently?

Share Discuss with a partner some times when it is difficult to live by the Law.

Catholic Faith Words

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

Beatitudes teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell the way to live in God's Kingdom now and always

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.

Precepts of the Church some of the minimum requirements given by Church leaders for deepening your relationship with God and the Church



Underline the foundation of Jesus' teachings.

Jesus Teaches

How does Jesus call you to live?

The Pharisees once asked Jesus which Commandment was the greatest. Jesus responded with a simple answer. His reply combines two teachings found in the Old Law.

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**

This is known as the Great Commandment. Jesus told his followers that he did not come to change the Law of Moses, but to fulfill it. His words and the authority with which he spoke stirred up a great deal of interest. Catholic **morality**, which teaches us to live in a right relationship with God, ourselves, and others, is rooted in the Great Commandment, his Sermon on the Mount, and his New Commandment to love as he loves.

Jesus' teachings about living in and for God's Kingdom are called the **Beatitudes**. The Beatitudes are more than laws; they are a call to a holy way of life, a sign of God's Kingdom, and a source of hope. (See Matthew 5:3-12.)



Freedom to Love

As often happens today, many people in Jesus' day equated happiness with trouble-free lives, security, and wealth. Jesus calls you to a form of happiness that is greater than any happiness that material things can give. To help you follow this path, the Holy Spirit empowers you with a willing heart, self-discipline, strength to pray, and the courage to keep your eyes focused on God.

Jesus brings a law of freedom. It sets you free to love God and others—to live the Great Commandment. The virtue of **charity** is a gift of the Holy Spirit, prompting you to live with love toward all. Charity allows you to show God's love to those who need it most—children, those who are poor and in need, and even your enemies. Charity is the only way of life for a Christian.

The Church's Precepts

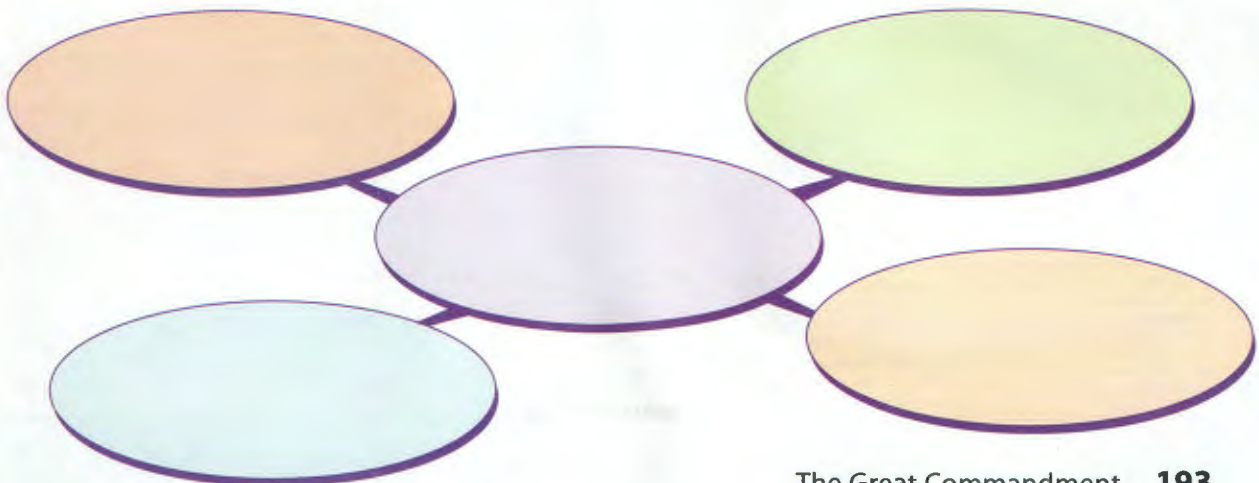
The Church offers you guidance for living a moral life. The **Precepts of the Church**, for example, describe some important duties of Catholics. The Precepts are rooted in the love of Christ. They can help you grow in your love of God and neighbor. The Precepts are listed on page 317 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book.

As you practice living the Beatitudes and strengthening yourself through the Spirit's gift of charity, you will live the Precepts out of love, rather than from a sense of duty.



Connect Your Faith

Tell About a Christ-like Person Think of a person who is a good example of the life of a true Christian. Create a word map telling all the Christ-like qualities of this person.



Our Catholic Life

What does it mean to keep the Great Commandment?

Jesus wants you to love God first and then to love your neighbor as you love yourself. He said that the Law and the prophets rest on these two Commandments.

Here are some ways to keep the Great Commandment.



Add your own ideas to the lists.

You can love God by ...

- being faithful to God's laws.
- participating at Mass.
- praying often.
- caring for creation.
- loving your neighbor as you love yourself.
- _____

You can love your neighbor by ...

- respecting and caring for members of your family.
- being a good friend to others.
- loving your enemies and praying for them.
- showing compassion or concern for others' troubles.
- being kind, patient, gentle, and humble.
- acting justly.
- forgiving when you are hurt.
- _____

You can love yourself by ...

- taking care of your body.
- educating your mind.
- practicing the virtue of chastity.
- keeping your heart and spirit free to love.
- avoiding tobacco products and illegal drugs.
- _____

People of Faith

July 4

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, 1901–1925

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was a young Italian who loved the outdoors, his friends, and having fun. But he also was deeply involved in works of charity. He would give his train money to the poor and then have to run home in time for dinner. Sometimes he even gave his coat to beggars. He lived his whole life following the Great Commandment. When he was only twenty-four, he contracted polio and died. At his funeral, hundreds of people he had helped came to pray. Pope Saint John Paul II called him “a man of the Beatitudes.”



Discuss: What Beatitude do you find the easiest to live?



Learn more about Blessed Pier Giorgio at alivelnchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Tell what Catholic morality means when it comes to your relationship with:

God

Yourself

Others

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; open our hands.

Based on Mark 8:22–25

Read Matthew 17:1–8

First Reflection

Read Matthew 17:1–8

Second Reflection

Read Matthew 17:1–8

Third Reflection

Leader: At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All: Our Father,
who art in heaven ...



Sing "Open My Eyes"

Open my eyes, Lord.
Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, Lord.
Help me to see.

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains the Great Commandment in relationship to the Ten Commandments and Jesus' New Law, and explores how the Precepts of the Church guide the faithful.

Scripture



Read **Mark 12:28–31** to find out what Jesus says is the first of all Commandments.

Catholics Believe

- Jesus brings a New Law of love and freedom rooted in the Great Commandment and Ten Commandments.
- The Beatitudes and the Precepts of the Church help the faithful live holy and dutiful lives.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1716–1729, 1970–1974, 2041–2043, 2055 at uscgb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian student whose life prompted Pope Saint John Paul II to call him “a man of the Beatitudes.”

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Great Commandment

The Great Commandment of Jesus makes sense to your child, who is capable of seeing how all of the other Commandments fit into these larger categories. At a time when rules are sometimes seen by the middle-school student as stifling his or her independence, the Great Commandment can be a useful shorthand to encourage critical thinking and self-reflection on moral issues.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

What makes you lovable?

Do you find it hard to answer that question? Knowing why we are lovable might seem to fly in the face of humility. Yet, knowing ourselves as a beloved child of God is the very core of our faith. You were created by love, in love. How could you be more loved? As Catholics, we know that “human life, as a profound unity of physical and spiritual dimensions, is sacred. It is distinct from all other forms of life, since it alone is imprinted with the very image of its Creator” (*USCCA p. 310*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain the Great Commandment.
- Think of a moral issue you have recently discussed with your child. How can the Great Commandment aid in the discussion?

LET'S PRAY >>>



Blessed Pier Giorgio, help us to live the Great Commandment in our lives as you did in yours. Amen.



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

Chapter 13 Review

A Work with Words Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

1. Jesus said to love your enemies and pray for those who hate you. **True/False**

2. Following rules is at the heart of the Great Commandment of love. **True/False**

3. The Beatitudes are more than laws; they are a call to a way of life and a source of hope in difficult times. **True/False**

4. The Sermon on the Mount is the revelation of Jesus in glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John. **True/False**

5. The Precepts of the Church are teachings meant to help you grow in the love of God and neighbor. **True/False**

B Check Understanding Read Matthew 5:3–10. List five of the groups of people who are blessed, according to the Beatitudes. Explain what each Beatitude you've listed means, and give an example of how you can live it today.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____
