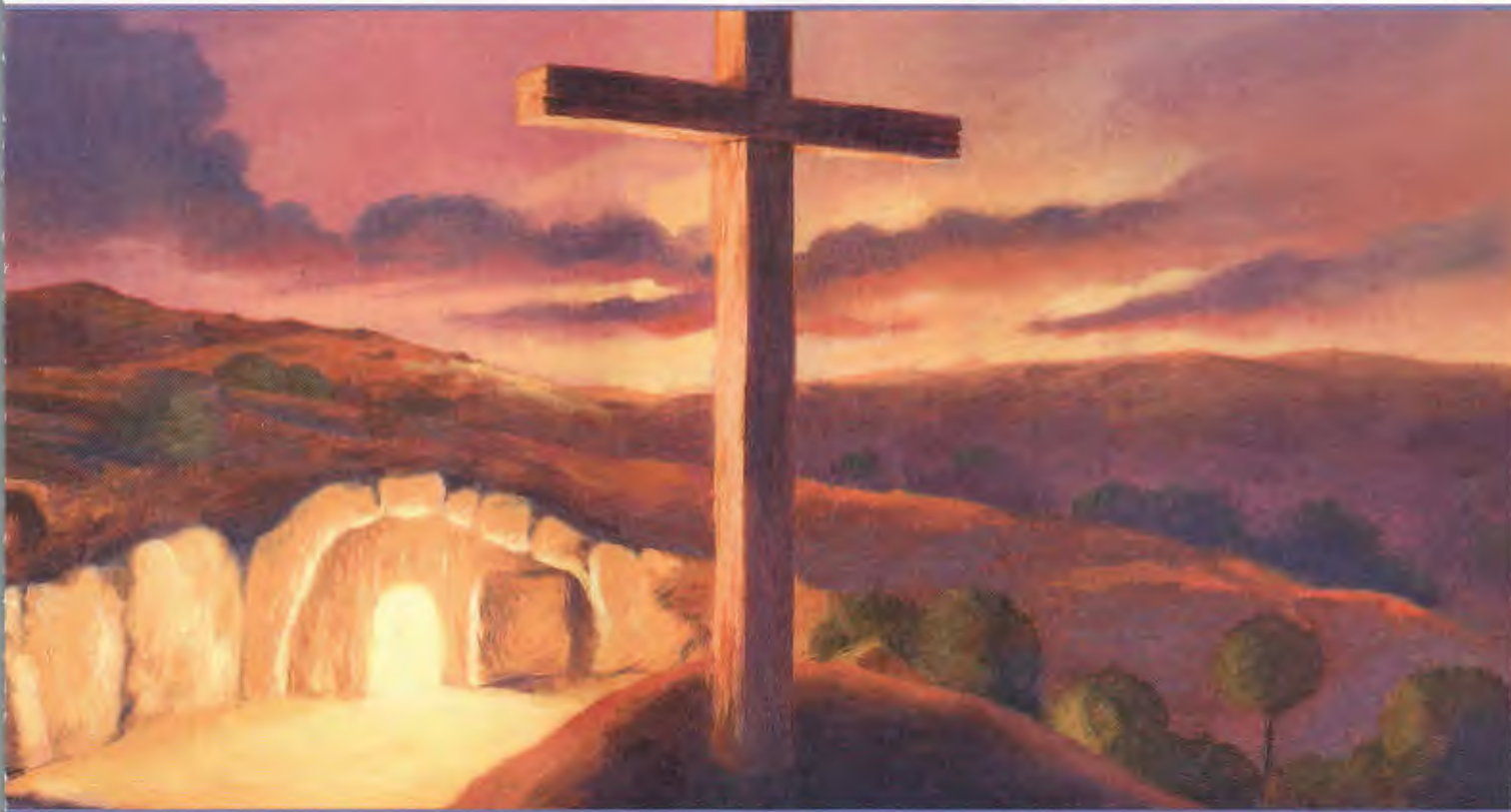


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

aliveinchrist.osv.com



Our Sunday Visitor

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Nihil Obstat

Rev. Fr. Jeremiah L. Payne, S.Th.L.
Censor Librorum, Diocese of Orlando

Imprimatur

✠ Most Rev. John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando
January 20, 2014

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"Anyway" prayer based on "The Paradoxical Commandments" by Kent M. Keith.

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Jesus, Sign of God's Love

Let Us Pray

Leader: Wondrous God, you did not forget your promise to us. You showed us your unconditional love by sending your Son, Jesus. We want to know and love you.

“Come and see the works of God, awesome in deeds before the children of Adam.” **Psalm 66:5**

All: Holy God, you sent your Son Jesus to show us the way to you. Be with us through the Holy Spirit as we try to love others unconditionally.

Scripture

“Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased.
Upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out, nor shout,
nor make his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.
He will faithfully bring forth justice.

I, the LORD, have called you for justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
To open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in
darkness.” **Isaiah 42:1-3, 6-7**

Have you ever thought...

- What promise did God fulfill in Jesus?
- How would God define love?

Getting Started

In this chapter, you will reflect on how we know God through Jesus Christ and recognize Christ as a sign of the Father's love. When we follow God's laws, we show our love for him and grow in our understanding of his love. His Commandments help us choose what is good so we can live as his People.

Catholic Faith Words

- covenant
- *abba*
- natural moral law
- Ten Commandments
- New Commandment

In the spaces below give examples of some things Jesus said and did that showed his love or the love of God the Father. Draw a star next to the example that has made the strongest impression on you.



Jesus
Showed
Signs of
God's Love

RANK AND EXPLAIN

Rank It! Rank the following definitions for love by what you think are the most accurate (1) to the least accurate (5). In the space provided below, explain your reason for the ranking.

- ___ to have an affection for someone
- ___ to have a strong liking or attraction to someone
- ___ to care for another with dignity and respect
- ___ to need or require someone
- ___ to worship or adore someone



How do you define love? Write your definition below. Then share with a classmate one way you have witnessed or experienced your definition of love.



Jesus: God's Own Love

How does God show his love for us?

Being loved is great, but sometimes it can be complicated. Sometimes people will show their love only if we behave in a certain way. At other times, people do love us, but they have a hard time expressing it. Plus, we have to build up trust and friendship with new people in our lives before we get to the point where we love them.

God's love is different, because he loves us without any conditions. God showed how much he loved us by sending his only and much-loved Son into the world.

Go to the Source

Read *Matthew 26:26–30*. What does Jesus give us to celebrate and commit ourselves to the new covenant with God?

Jesus: The Way to the Father

The relationship between God the Father and God the Son is the most intimate and loving relationship possible. But God the Father did not keep his Son for himself. Instead, he chose to share him with the world: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (*John 3:16*).

In Jesus Christ, God showed us everything he could about himself. What God told us about himself first through creation and history, and then through his Chosen People, the Jews in the Old Testament, he revealed in the most perfect way in Jesus Christ. With the coming of Jesus, there is no further revelation. In Jesus Christ, God has taught us everything there is to be revealed.

Even though God the Father has fully revealed himself in Christ, our understanding of him continues to grow as we discover new things about what God has shared

with us. Our limited human minds cannot understand God the first time we learn about him. It takes years of growing into understanding. New experiences and continually being taught more about God help us come to know him more and more, but we'll never fully understand God because he is a mystery.

➤ **How many times have you heard a story or seen a movie twice, and realized you missed something the first time?**

Jesus: Given to Us

As many passages of the Old Testament testify, God made a covenant with his people and said he would never forget his promise. A **covenant** is a binding agreement, in this case, a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans to remain in a relationship of love together.

God showed the depth of his love when he made a new covenant in Jesus Christ, one

that would last forever. At the Last Supper, Jesus and the Apostles were celebrating God's original covenant when Jesus explained that now he was going to be the Father's new covenant. God the Father made that covenant present in the world through the gift of Jesus' own Body and Blood. In **Luke 22:20** we read, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." By pouring out his blood, Jesus offered forgiveness for sins so that all people would be reconciled with God. All four Gospels record the Last Supper, and we celebrate this sacrifice in the Eucharist at Mass.

➤ **Imagine that you were asked to give away, or say goodbye to, the person you love the most. How hard would that be for you? Could you do it?**

Catholic Faith Words

covenant a sacred promise or agreement between humans or between God and humans

EXPLAIN

What is one of the hardest sacrifices you've made because of your love for a family member, friend, or God? Explain the situation and tell how your decision made a difference in someone's life.



Jesus Shows Us the Father

How do we see God through Jesus Christ?

Sometimes we meet people who say all the right things, but we might wonder if they live the way they talk. With Jesus, there is no doubt that everything about his life is true. He not only talked about God the Father, but he also showed us who God is in the way he lived. He did this because he is God. We call Jesus *God*, like we call God the Father, *God*, and God the Holy Spirit, *God*.

One with the Father

We always appreciate it when someone remembers our name when we haven't seen that person for a long time. On the other hand, people are sometimes embarrassed when they can't remember the name of someone they should know. In the Hebrew

tradition, knowing a person's name implied a close relationship between the two people.

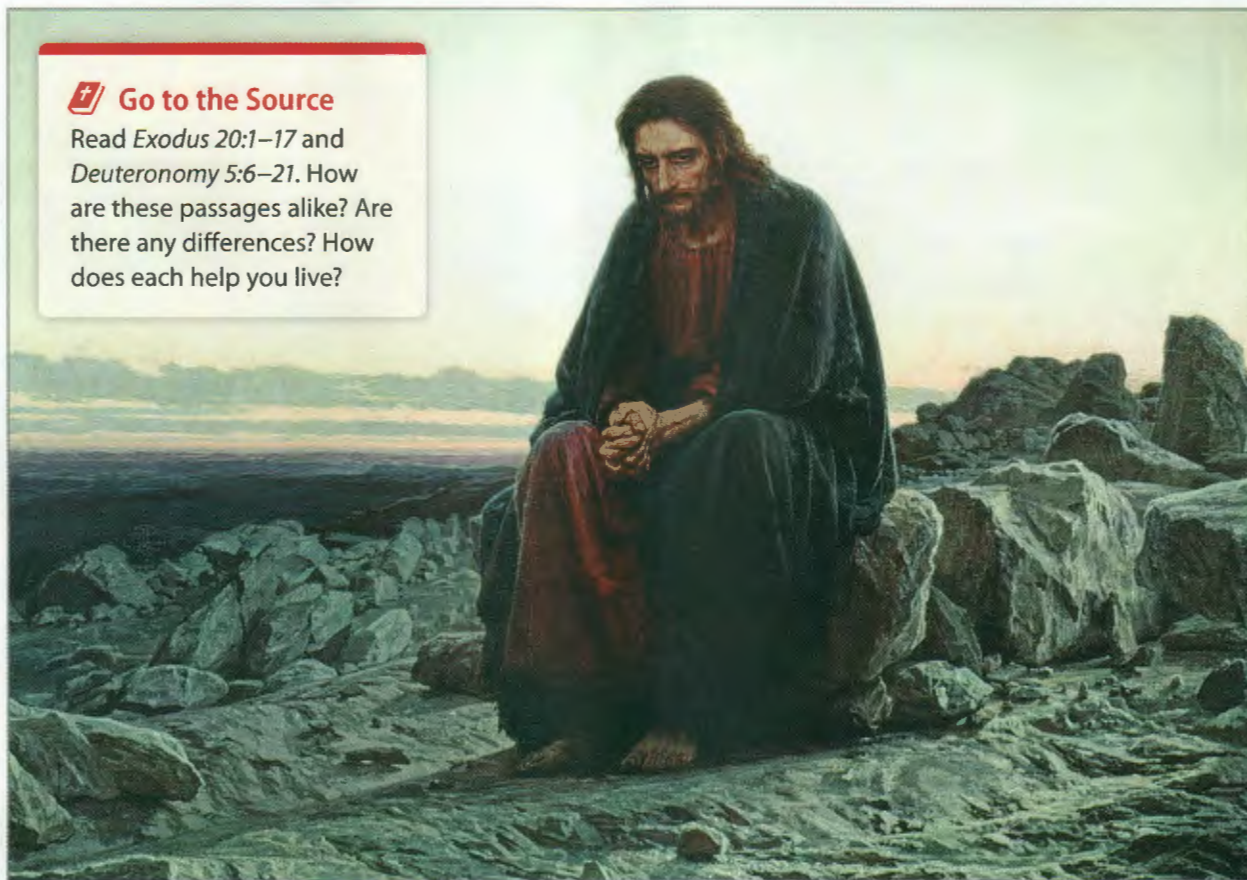
The Hebrew people thought of themselves as being unworthy to utter God's name. This is why they were shocked when they heard Jesus address God in the most intimate of ways. When he taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer, he began with the Aramaic word **abba** (See Luke 11:2–4). The English equivalent of this word is “Daddy” or “Papa.”

Jesus invited his disciples to address God in the same way, as we do today when we pray “Our Father.” By being baptized in Christ, Catholics share that close relationship with God. We become adopted children of God, sons and daughters who can count on God's love at all times. (See Galatians 4:6.)

➤ **What are some ways you call on God?**

Go to the Source

Read *Exodus 20:1–17* and *Deuteronomy 5:6–21*. How are these passages alike? Are there any differences? How does each help you live?





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What We Learn from Jesus

In every way, Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's own revelation. Everything about Jesus points to God and the coming of his heavenly Kingdom on Earth.

- In **prayer**, Jesus shows us how trustworthy God is, how God listens and cares for each of us.
- In **miracles**, Jesus shows us God's desire to heal us physically and spiritually and help us change our lives for the good.
- In **his love for the poor**, for children, and for sinners, Jesus reveals that God cares for every single human being.

- By **accepting death on the Cross**, Jesus shows that following God's plan is the best, even when it involves sacrifice.
- In the **Resurrection**, Jesus makes it known that God's heavenly Reign and Divine life can be a part of our human existence.

Underline which description gives you your clearest picture of Jesus as God.



Catholic Faith Words

abba the Aramaic word with the English equivalent of "daddy" or "papa"

DESCRIBE

Read the Lord's Prayer (see Luke 11:2–4 and page 383 of the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book). Describe several personal ways that you address God in your own prayers. How do your names for God show how you feel about him?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Jesus Speaking in the Treasury, James Jacques Joseph Tissot

Laws That Point to God

How do laws lead us to God?

When we study the world and the universe, we find a marvelous order to it in the movement of the heavenly bodies, in the cycle of time and seasons, in the fruitfulness of all creation, in the cycle of birth and death, in the relationship of man and woman, and in the laws that are inscribed in our hearts.

This order is created by God. The laws of nature are like building blocks that form the foundation for all life. This **natural moral law** consists of precepts about goodness that are written by God in our hearts and are accessible through our God-given reason. Natural law requires us to do good and avoid evil. Our awareness of natural law can be clouded by the disorder caused by Original Sin.

➤ **What are some other positive natural laws that you can think of?**

God's Revealed Law

Besides the natural moral law, God has revealed ways that help us live in covenant relationship with him. God's revealed law was evident when he gave us the **Ten Commandments** through Moses. (See page 373 of the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book.) These laws helped to make clear God's hope for the way all people are to live in relationship with him and one another. God's revealed law continued in the Old Testament and led to the Gospels and the fulfillment of God's revealed law in Christ.

Jesus, the New Law

Jesus not only confused some people by his close relationship with God the Father, but he also surprised people in the way he spoke of the Law. He did not want them to follow God's Law only because they feared punishment. Instead, he wanted them to rely on the love of God that had been planted within their hearts.

He explained it all in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5:3–10), when he said that those who would be blessed are the poor, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers. He showed the positive side of the Law.

Jesus gave his followers a new law, a **New Commandment**—to love one another as he has loved them (see John 13:34). Christ poured out his life for us, and his Holy Spirit dwells within us. God’s Spirit within us deepens whenever we gather with fellow Catholics to pray and participate in the Sacraments. We are called to live holy lives,

Catholic Faith Words

natural moral law precepts about goodness that are written by God in our hearts and accessible through our God-given reason

Ten Commandments the ten fundamental moral laws given by God to Moses, and recorded in the Old Testament, to help his People live by the covenant

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

not primarily because of external laws, but because of the law of love that exists within our hearts.

- **How is it different when you are doing something because you were told to, and when you are doing something because, in your heart, you know it is right?**

WRITE

Write some other signs of God’s love, and describe how you can be a sign of that love, too.

IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and he perfectly reveals God the Father to us.

- We know God through Jesus Christ and recognize Christ as a sign of God’s love.
- Jesus has a close and intimate relationship with the Father, and he invites us to share in that relationship as God’s sons and daughters.
- The natural and revealed laws help us choose what is good and live as God’s People; by pouring out the Holy Spirit, Jesus plants within our hearts a New Commandment.

Our Catholic Life

Living in love and friendship with Jesus is in many ways similar to living in love and friendship with those you see every day at home, at school, in church, on teams, in clubs or other extracurricular activities. **Friendship** takes work, but it is some of the best work we can do, and the most fulfilling. Through our friendship, we show our love for people.

There are several ways to get closer to Jesus, all of them important now and later in our lives. They include reading accounts of Jesus in the Gospels and reflecting on how he acts and why it matters, receiving Holy Communion and spending time in prayer with Jesus, seeing Jesus in the faces of those you meet, learning from the example of others, and being grateful for the love that people show you.



➤ What is one way you can show friendship with Jesus this week?

People of Faith

Saint Maria Goretti, 1890–1902

Maria Goretti's family lived near another family who had a son named Alessandro. One day Alessandro tried to get Maria to commit a sin. When she wouldn't, he stabbed her fourteen times. She died the next day, after forgiving Alessandro. After Alessandro was released from jail, he asked Maria's mother for forgiveness, and eventually became a lay brother in a monastery, where he worked until he died. He and Maria's mother were present at Maria's canonization in 1950. The Church celebrates her feast day on **July 6**.



For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com

IDENTIFY

Consider who shows you love, and how, in each of these settings:

At home

At school

In clubs or on teams

In the world



Prayer of Adoration

Leader: Let us pray.

Reader 1: Father, you gave us
your greatest gift—
your Son, Jesus,
who lived and experienced
the same joys and heartaches that
we experience.

All: We love you and adore you, O God.

Reader 2: You sent Jesus to teach us
how to live,
to grow, to learn,
and to know the happiness
that comes from belonging to you.

All: We love you and adore you, O God.

Reader 3: You had Jesus show us the way
to be a servant;
he washed our feet,
he opened his hands,
and offered his life for us.

All: We love you and adore you, O God.

Reader 4: You raised him up again to
new life,
showing us all that we too can share in
your life,
and become who you want us to be.

All: We love you and adore you, O God.

Leader: Loving Father,
Help us to remember your love always.
We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus,
who is your everlasting love.

All: Amen.

 *Sing or play "We Ever Will Praise You"*

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

A Work with Words Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

1. God's ___ is a promise to remain in a relationship of love with his People.
 - a. covenant
 - b. word
 - c. law
 - d. spirit

2. The Aramaic word ___ can be translated as "Daddy" in English.
 - a. *Yahweh*
 - b. *papa*
 - c. *abba*
 - d. *padre*

3. The order in the universe created by God is called ___.
 - a. creation
 - b. cycle of time
 - c. cycle of seasons
 - d. none of the above

4. ___ requires us to do good and avoid evil.
 - a. Universal law
 - b. Original law
 - c. Laws of nature
 - d. Natural moral law

5. The ten fundamental moral laws given by God to Moses, and recorded in the Old Testament, are the ___.
 - a. Miracles
 - b. Nicene Creed
 - c. Canon of Scripture
 - d. Ten Commandments

6. Jesus wants people to follow God's Law out of ___.
 - a. fear of the Lord
 - b. conscience
 - c. trust
 - d. love

B Check Understanding Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Then rewrite false statements to make them true.

7. Through Jesus' miracles we see God's desire to heal us physically and spiritually. **True/False**

8. Jesus gives us a New Commandment, to love one another as he loves us. **True/False**

9. God's revealed Law is manifested only in the Ten Commandments. **True/False**

10. At Jesus' birth, God the Father made the new covenant through the gift of Jesus' humanity. **True/False**

C Make Connections On a separate sheet of paper, write a one-paragraph response to the questions: How might Jesus' relationship to God the Father have been surprising to people of the time? What new law did Jesus give us to help live out that relationship here on Earth?