

The Tenth Commandment

23

We Gather in Prayer

Leader: Let us listen to the words of Jesus as he teaches us about important things in life.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Reader: Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds!”
(Luke 12:22–24)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Pescador de Hombres/ Lord, You Have Come

Lord, you have come to the seashore,
neither searching for the rich nor the
wise,
desiring only that I should follow.

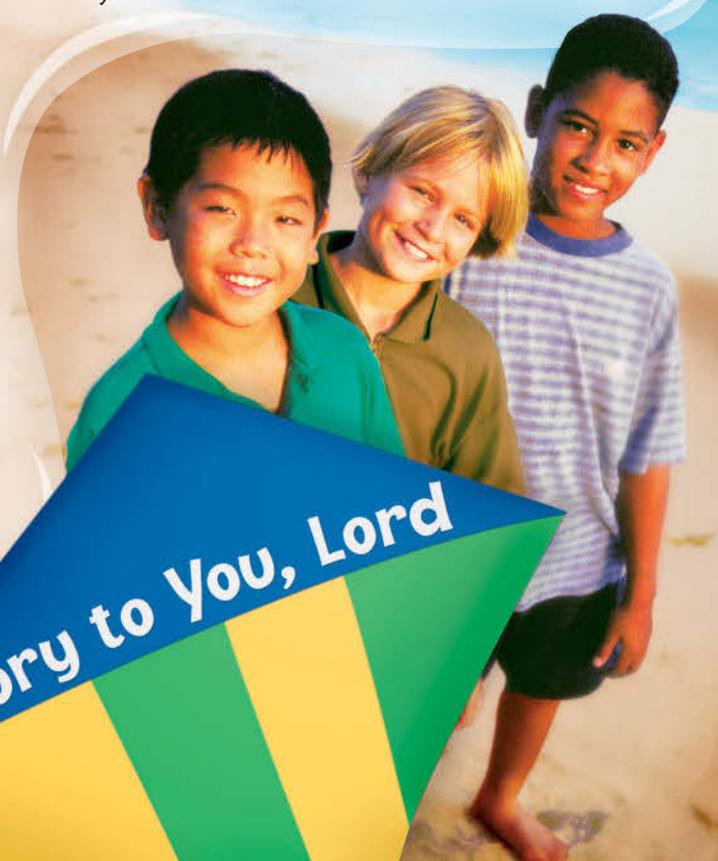
Refrain:

O Lord, with your eyes set upon me,
gently smiling, you have spoken my
name;
all I longed for I have found by the
water,
at your side, I will seek other shores.

Tú has venido a la orilla,
no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos;
tan sólo quieres que yo te siga.

Refrain:

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos,
sonriendo has dicho mi nombre,
en la arena he dejado mi barca,
junto a ti buscaré otro mar.



Glory to You, Lord

YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR
NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.

We are called to have generous hearts.

WE GATHER

✝ Holy Spirit, help us to know
our hearts.

Think of a time when you did something,
and then had to explain your actions.
Was it difficult to think about why you
had acted that way?

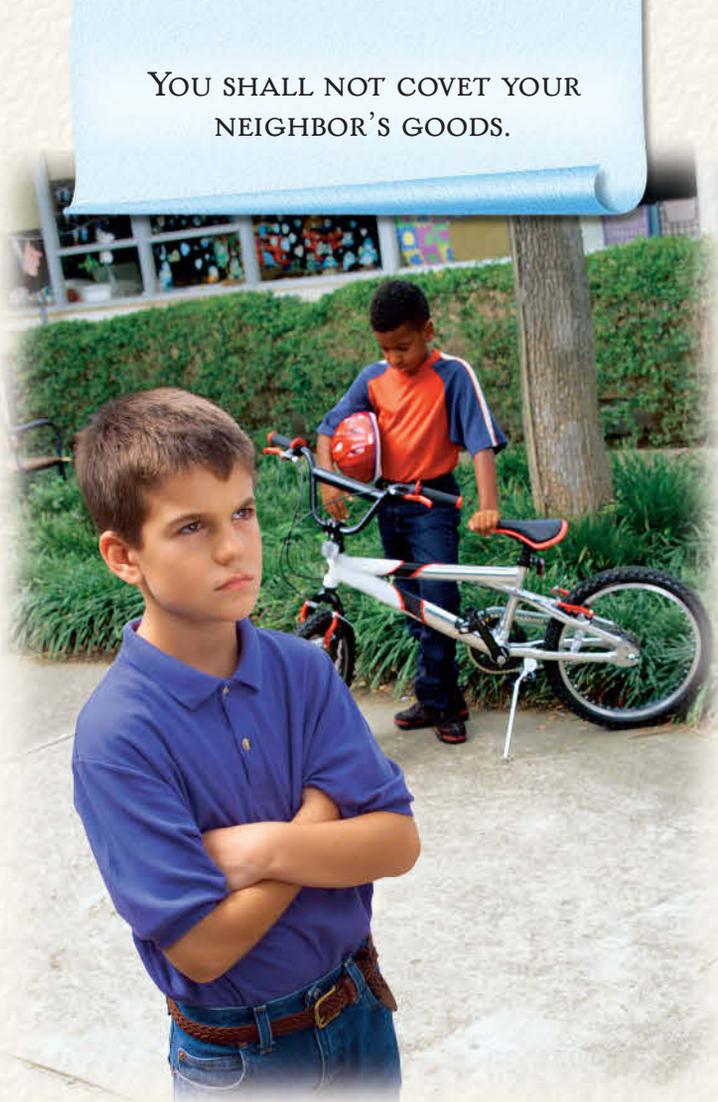
WE BELIEVE

The Tenth Commandment is, “You shall
not covet your neighbor’s goods.” Like
the Ninth Commandment, the Tenth
Commandment teaches us to look into our
hearts and to examine our thoughts and
feelings. We try to understand our feelings
toward the things that others have.

The Tenth Commandment also relates to
the Seventh Commandment. Both of these
commandments deal with the property
of others. We do not take things that do
not belong to us. We also do not wrongly
desire those things. When we live out
the Tenth Commandment, we do not
covet, or wrongly desire, the goods
and property of others.

Living out the Tenth Commandment keeps
us from spending too much time wishing
for the things we do not have. Instead, we
should be thankful for what we have. We
should work for what we need and work
to help others to have what they need.

Are we happy that people have what they
need? Are we happy that people have
many things that they want? **Envy** is a
feeling of sadness when someone else has
the things we want for ourselves. Envy
can lead to taking what belongs to
someone else.



People who are envious think mostly
about themselves. They are not happy
for the success of other people. Instead,
they want success, power, or money for
themselves. Envious people have a hard
time seeing what they already have and
being grateful for it. However, when
people rely on God and are grateful for
the many gifts he has given them, envy
does not become a part of their lives.
People who think of others in a loving
and giving way develop a generous
heart, not an envious one.



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else has the things we
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Read each situation. Act it out to show how the boys and girls can follow the Tenth Commandment.

- Darryl helped his father all summer. At the start of the school year, his father gave him a new bike as a reward for his hard work. Vinny sees the new bike and thinks, “I want that bike.”
- As an only child, David has been the center of attention for his family. Last March, David’s parents adopted a beautiful baby girl. Now David has to share the attention with his new baby sister.
- Roberta and Carlos were finalists in the school spelling bee. Carlos misspelled a word that Roberta spelled correctly. Roberta won.



The Tenth Commandment reminds us not only to act justly but also to think justly. It reminds us to look into our hearts. We should not be so worried about what others have that we lose sight of what is important. God and his love are important. People and their needs are important. The Church community in which we worship and grow in faith is important. God’s gifts of creation are important. These are the things that should fill our hearts.

WE RESPOND

How can you show that you have a generous heart?

Ask Jesus to help you to be generous as he was.





YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.

Jesus taught us to trust in God above all things.

WE GATHER

+ Lord, teach us what is important to you.

Discuss each of these situations. How is the person being just or unjust?

When tickets to a concert go on sale, Mr. Maddie buys as many as he can. Then he sells the tickets to others at a much higher price.

Rella's aunt visits her and brings her a box of candy. Rella places the box on the kitchen table so the whole family can enjoy the candy.

A company hires six new workers as analysts. Three are given medical plans.

Now talk about the opposite of each of these situations.

WE BELIEVE

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house . . . nor anything else that belongs to him” (Exodus 20:17) reminds us not to get caught up in wanting things. We all need certain things to have a happy and healthy life. God hopes that we have those things. He calls us to help others have the things they need, too. However, when people are greedy they want more and more of something—for example, money or clothing. **Greed** is an excessive desire to have or own things.



Semester: <u>Fall</u>	Language Arts: <u>A+</u>
Student: <u>Marybeth Lee</u>	Science: <u>B</u>
Grade: <u>4</u>	Social Studies: <u>A</u>
	Math: <u>A-</u>
	Art: <u>B+</u>
	Music: <u>A</u>



Work with a partner. Rewrite Jesus' teaching (Luke 12:22-24) as if Jesus were telling it today.

Think about these words of Jesus: "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions" (Luke 12:15).

When people are greedy they want things so much that they can forget the things that are important in life. They forget about the happiness that comes from loving God and others. They forget about living the way that Jesus taught us to live. Jesus taught us that trusting in God is more important than thinking about money and success.

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds!" (Luke 12:22-24).

Talk about what Jesus' teaching means to you.

WE RESPOND

What is important to you in your life? Why is it important? Does it help you to love God and others? What could you do to make God more important in your life?

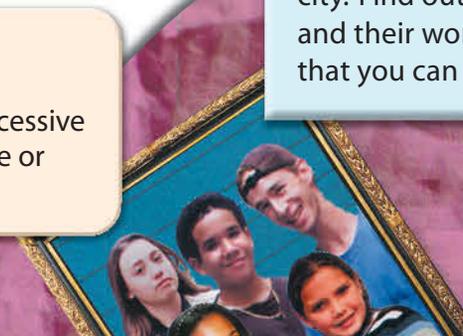
As Catholics...

Some men and women devote their lives to Christ and to the Church. They become religious sisters, brothers, or priests. As members of religious communities, they make vows, or promises, to God. These vows are poverty, chastity, and obedience. In their religious communities they share everything for the common good. Their way of life gives them great freedom to serve God and their neighbors. They are not distracted by the desire for material things or power or fame.

With your family check to find out which religious communities are serving in or near your town or city. Find out more about them and their work. Is there any way that you can help in their work?

Key Word

greed an excessive desire to have or own things



Depending upon God brings happiness.

WE GATHER

 *God, we praise you for filling our hearts with joy.*

What makes you happy? What do you do when you are happy? How can you share that happiness with others?

WE BELIEVE

Jesus tells us that true happiness comes from loving God and living as Jesus did. Jesus said,

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”
(Matthew 5:3).

We are **poor in spirit** when we depend on God completely. Just as a child depends on her or his parents, so we should be dependent on God. To be poor in spirit we must be trusting and open to God’s will. To be poor in spirit we need to be content with what we have and find joy in the simple things of life.

Trust, openness, and joy are the very words that describe people who are poor in spirit. They do not need a lot of things. The poor in spirit place their trust in God. Together with the other members of the Church, they are able to find the true happiness that comes from loving God and others.

People who live by the Tenth Commandment place their trust in God. They follow the example of Jesus.



poor in spirit those who depend on God completely

YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR
NEIGHBOR’S GOODS.

Jesus placed his trust in his Father. Jesus gave to those who were in need and cared for people who were sick or alone. Jesus asks all of his disciples to do the same. The Church shows that it is poor in spirit when it helps people who are in need.



Parish fair for the missions

Saint Paul was one of Jesus’ disciples. He tried to help people believe in Jesus and live as Jesus did:

“I have never wanted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You know well that these very hands have served my needs and my companions. In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’”
(Acts of the Apostles 20:33–35).

Saint Paul did not waste time wishing that he had the money that some other people had. Saint Paul helped those in need because he followed the words of Jesus, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts of the Apostles 20:35). As long as we also follow these words of Jesus, we too will be honoring the Tenth Commandment.

Take a few moments to think quietly and prayerfully about ways you follow the Tenth Commandment. These questions may help you.

- Do I wish that I had things that belong to others?
- Am I sad when others have things that I would like?
- Do I trust in God?
- Am I willing to share with others?
- When I get money as a gift or for my allowance, do I give some of it to the poor and needy in my community?
- Am I happy with what I have or am I always asking for more things?

WE RESPOND

 Complete the chart by writing examples of ways you and your parish give and receive time, love, and gifts.

	Give	Receive
Time		
Love		
Gifts		

How can both giving and receiving be a sign of trust in others? in God?

Blessed are they...

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Being poor in spirit means depending on God for everything. Even as a little girl, Thérèse knew that everything she had came from God. She loved God as much as she could. She thought of herself as a little flower in God's garden.

When she was only fifteen, she entered a monastery of religious sisters. There she prayed for the whole world. Before she died, she promised to spend her Heaven in doing good upon earth. Her feast day is October 1.



*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
(Matthew 5:3)*

Jesus teaches us that God's law is love.

WE GATHER

✝ *Christ, we want to love as you do.*

👤 Look at the sticker on the notebook—"God's Law Makes Us Happy!" It encourages others to live out the Ten Commandments.

Design your own stickers here to do the same.



WE BELIEVE

In Jesus' life we see the perfect way to live God's law. Jesus followed the Ten Commandments. He was always faithful to God's law. 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" (Matthew 5:17).

Jesus fulfilled the law by living it with complete love for God and others. Jesus showed that following the Ten Commandments brings the happiness that comes from friendship with God. When we follow the commandments, we must do so with love for God, ourselves, and others. Jesus said and did things that showed God's love. His life was one of holiness, complete love

of his Father, and service to others. Jesus' life showed that the Holy Spirit was active and working in the world.

Jesus cared for those who were poor and comforted those who were sick. He accepted all people and helped them to feel God's love and care. Jesus called all people to look into their hearts, to be more giving, to go beyond their own needs to the needs of others. His life and his words showed us that we must love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.

We believe that love of God and neighbor sum up the Ten Commandments. In one of his letters to the early Christian community, Saint Paul wrote, "Love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10).

WE RESPOND

Each day this week watch for people who are living out the Ten Commandments. Family members, friends and classmates, and people in your parish and neighborhood are among those who can show us how to love God and neighbor.



With a partner, make up a song to describe ways people live out the Ten Commandments.

What will you do this week to be an example to others?