

The Eighth Commandment

19

WE GATHER

✚ **Leader:** Let us pray Psalm 119.

Side 1: "Your word, LORD, stands forever;
it is firm as the heavens.

Side 2: Through all generations your truth
endures;
fixed to stand firm like the earth."
(Psalm 119:89, 90)

Side 1: "Your justice is forever right,
your teaching forever true."
(Psalm 119:142)

Side 2: "I call with all my heart, O LORD;
answer me that I may observe
your laws."
(Psalm 119:145)

Side 1: Glory to the Father, and to the
Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Side 2: As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

🎵 Come, Follow Me

Refrain:

Come, follow me, come, follow me.
I am the way, the truth, and the life.
Come, follow me, come, follow me.
I am the light of the world, follow me.

You call us to serve with a generous
heart;
in building your kingdom each one
has a part.

Each person is special in your
kingdom of love.

Yes, we will follow you, Jesus!
(Refrain)

☀️ Imagine that everyone
was truthful. How would
this change the world?



WE BELIEVE

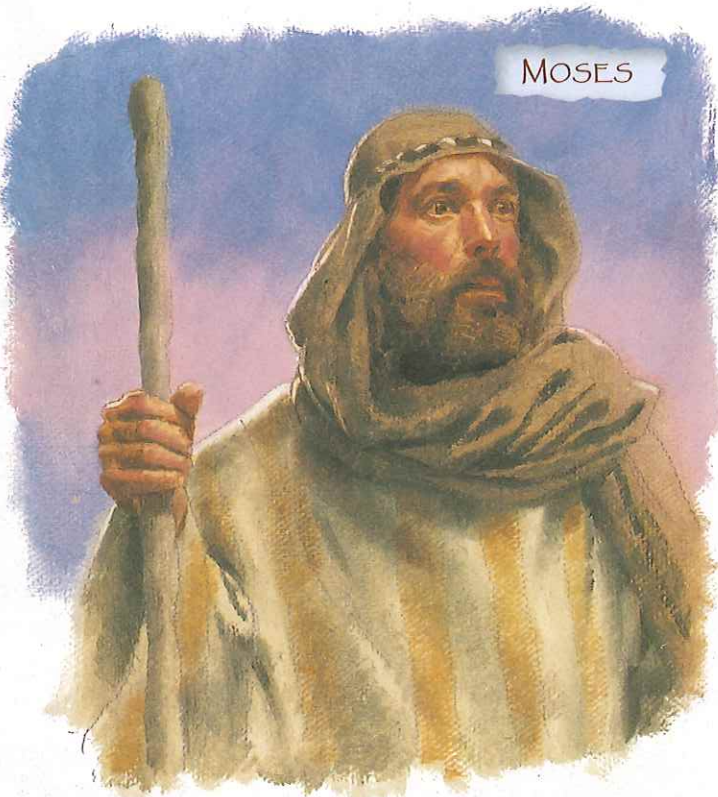
God teaches us what it means to be true.

To witness means to have personal knowledge and to truthfully tell what is known. The Eighth Commandment states “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16). To give false witness can harm others and our relationship with God.

The Old Testament is full of stories showing that God was faithful and true.

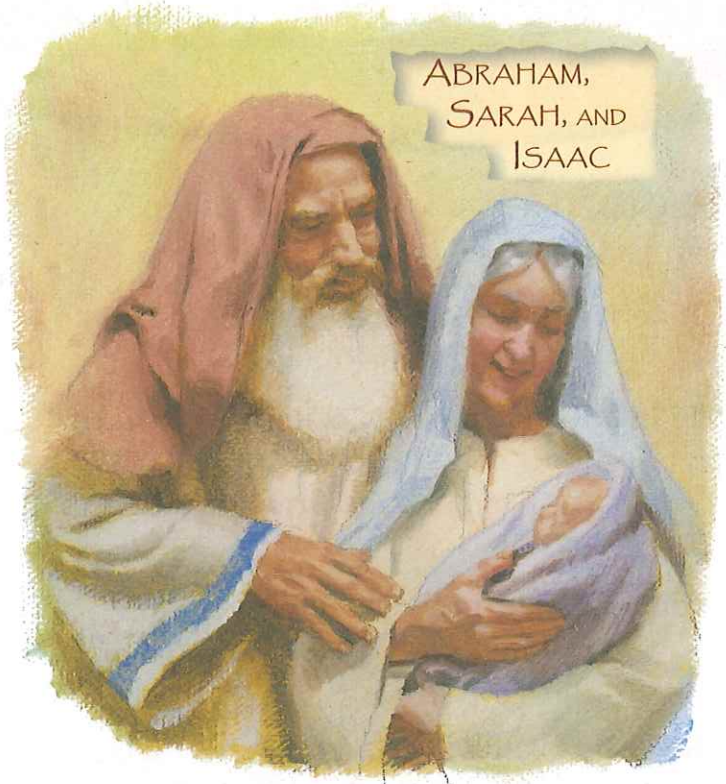
God promised Abraham that he would become the father of a great nation. Abraham believed God, yet Abraham and his wife, Sarah, grew old and had no children. But God kept his promise and Sarah gave birth to a son, Isaac. Through Isaac, God’s people the Israelites began. God’s word was true.

Many years later God heard the prayers of his people asking for freedom from



MOSES

YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE
WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.



ABRAHAM,
SARAH, AND
ISAAC

their slavery in Egypt. God sent Moses to lead them to freedom and eventually made a covenant with them. God promised to be their God. The Israelites promised to be his people and to live by the Ten Commandments.

Because God was true to his people, they learned to be true to God and one another. By living out the Ten Commandments, the Israelites gave witness to the truth of God’s great love for them. The Eighth Commandment reminded them to be true and truthful.



Write one way you will show your family members that you are trustworthy and truthful.

We are called to witness to the truth of our faith.

God the Father sent his Son to help us live in truth. Jesus told us, "For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" (John 18:37). We live in the truth when we listen to Jesus and follow the example of his life.

The first disciples knew Jesus. They witnessed his life, Death, and Resurrection. Jesus promised his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them: "You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses" (Acts of the Apostles 1:8).

At Pentecost the disciples received the Holy Spirit and were filled with courage. At once they spoke to the crowds, and the people understood them in their own languages.

The Holy Spirit helped the disciples remain faithful to the truth about the risen Christ.

Faith in Jesus spread throughout the world. However, in some areas Christians faced death if they would not worship false gods. Many Christian women and men died rather than give up their belief in the risen Jesus. They are called **martyrs**.

The word *martyrs* comes from a Greek word that means "witnesses." We may never become martyrs, but we are called to be witnesses to Jesus.

Key Words

martyrs (p. 260)

witnesses (p. 261)

Witnesses are people who speak and act based upon what they know and believe about Jesus.

Like the first disciples, we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, too. We receive the Holy Spirit in a special way in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit helps us to be strong and courageous witnesses to our Catholic faith.



With a partner name some situations in which people can be witnesses to the Catholic faith. Then role-play one.

We have a responsibility to tell the truth.

The Eighth Commandment teaches us to

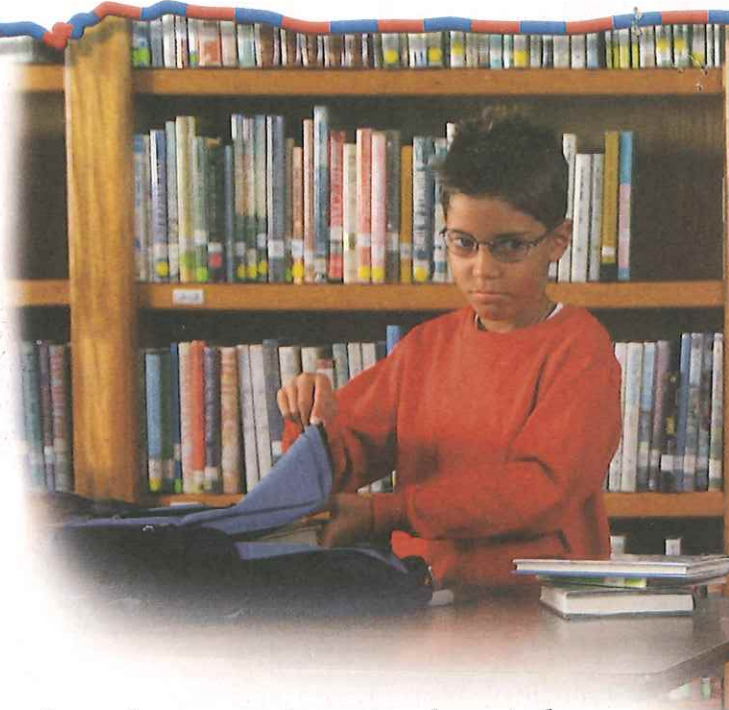
- witness to the truth of Jesus by the things we say and do
- tell the truth
- respect the privacy of others
- honor the good name of others and to avoid anything that would harm their reputation.

To lie is to deliberately make a false statement. People sometimes lie to avoid responsibility or to make themselves look good. However, lies damage our own good name, and they usually hurt other people as well. Lies make us lose respect for ourselves.

If we lie, we need to admit that we have lied. Then we need to tell the truth. We also must try to make up for any harm our lies may have caused.

Another way to respect the truth is to avoid gossip and rumors. When people gossip they often spread mean untruths about other people. This is called calumny. Gossip leads to rumors. A rumor is information that we hear but do not know if it is true. Spreading rumors can hurt a person's reputation. Detraction, telling another's faults, can also harm his or her good name.

The Eighth Commandment also addresses the need to handle promises in the correct way. If we promise to keep a secret, we give our word to another person. That person trusts us. If we tell the secret, we have gone back on our word. We have broken the person's trust.



Sometimes people may ask us to keep a secret about something that is harmful or dangerous to them or others. In this situation we must help them. We have the duty to tell someone we trust: a parent, a teacher, a school nurse, or a priest. To get help for people in danger is not "telling on them." It takes courage and is an act of great friendship.



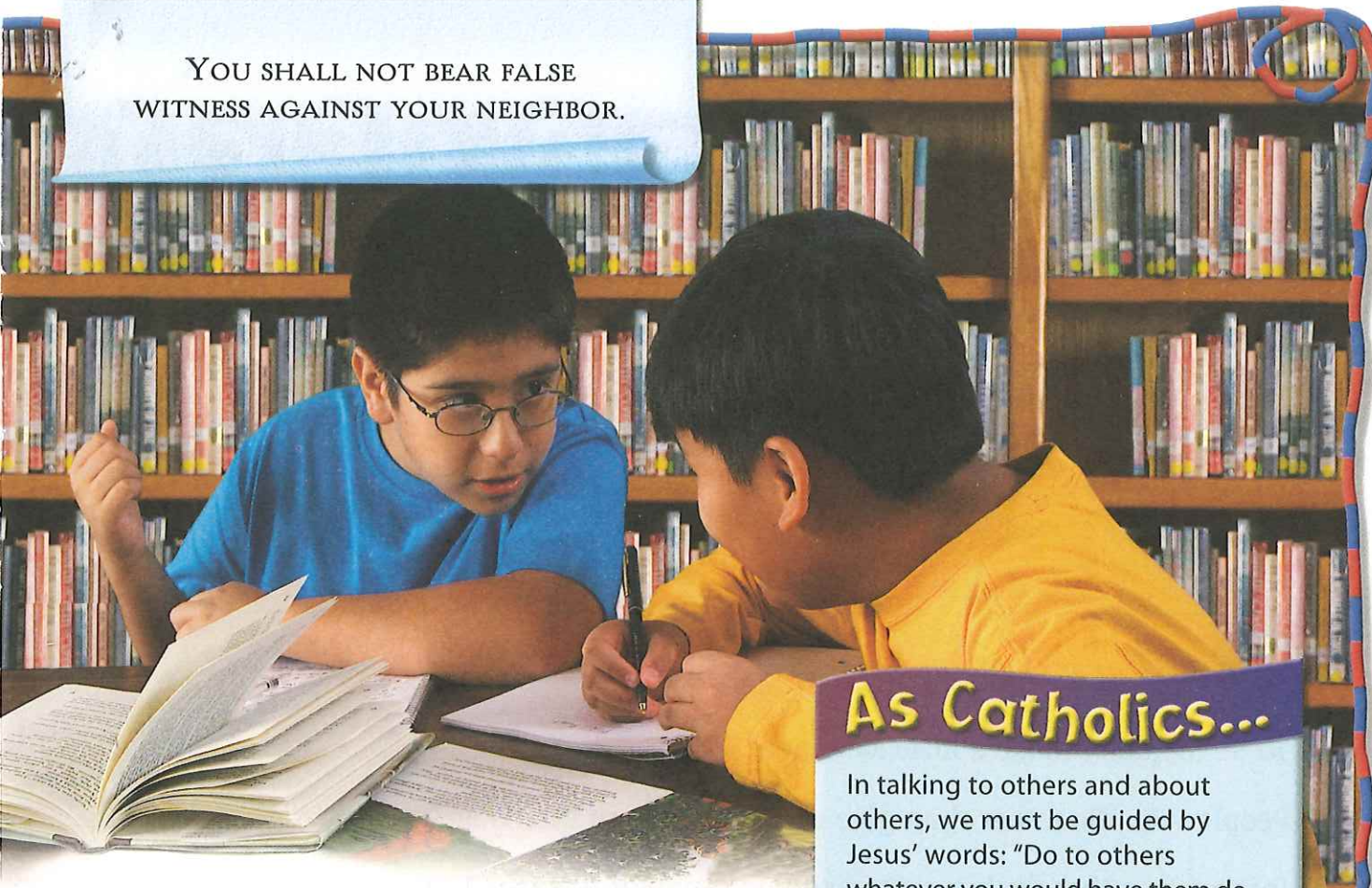
Name some times when it is easy to tell the truth. Name some times when it is difficult.

We have a responsibility to respect the truth.

From many experiences that you have had in life, you have learned that some people are true to their word. They can be trusted. When they say something, they mean it. These people are honoring the Eighth Commandment because they are being truthful. People have a right to information that is true and just.

Once, when Jesus was teaching about the Eighth Commandment, he explained it very simply. He said, "Let your 'Yes'

YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE
WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.



mean 'Yes,' and your 'No,' mean 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). Jesus expects our words to be true. When we follow Jesus' teachings, we learn what is true and how to live out the truth.

As Catholics...

In talking to others and about others, we must be guided by Jesus' words: "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12). This teaching of Jesus is often called "The Golden Rule." We should always remember these words of Jesus. They help us to act in a fair and just way towards one another. They help us to speak about others in a respectful, caring way. They help us to practice moderate and truthful use of social media.

How can you practice the Golden Rule this week?

WE RESPOND



How could you live out the truth in these situations?

- You are supposed to be doing your homework, but you are playing a video game in your room. Your mother asks whether you have finished your homework or not.
- You borrow something from a friend and lose it.
- When you buy some candy, the clerk gives you an extra dollar in your change.
- You promise to go to a party, but something comes up that you would rather do.



PROJECT

Show What *you* Know

Unscramble the words in the box. Use these words to complete the sentences.

SRTRMAY

WISNSTEES

OISGPS

IEL

RMORU

1. The spread of untruths about other people is _____.
2. To deliberately make a false statement is a _____.
3. People who die rather than give up their belief in the risen Jesus are _____.
4. Information that we hear yet we do not know if it is true is a _____.
5. People who speak and act based upon what they know and believe about Jesus are _____.

More *to* Explore

The mission statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul tells what this group does. "Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, Saint Vincent de Paul."

DISCIPLE CHALLENGE

- Underline the phrase that tells who the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps.
- Circle the name of the Society's founder.
- Highlight the name of the Society's patron.





Saint Stories

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Frédéric was a husband and father, professor, and servant of the poor. As a young student, he founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with others in Paris. Find out what the Society of St. Vincent de Paul does in your parish or diocese.

Question Corner

Survey at least four of your classmates and friends.
Ask: "What issues in living out the Eighth Commandment are of most concern for you today?"

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> spreading rumors | <input type="checkbox"/> cyberbullying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> breaking promises | <input type="checkbox"/> gossiping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lying | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |



Be sure to take the survey yourself.
Report your findings to the class.

Pray Today

*Jesus, I want to witness to your life today.
Help me*

Take Home

Look at the survey in *Question Corner*. Conduct the same survey with your family members. Make the time to gather your family together to discuss the findings of the survey. Decide on some ways your family can guard against these abuses.

CHAPTER TEST

Write True or False for the following sentences.

Then change the false sentences to make them true.

1. _____ Old Testament stories teach us that God is faithful and true.

2. _____ The Eighth Commandment teaches us to tell the truth.

3. _____ Lies make us lose respect for ourselves.

4. _____ We respect the truth when we gossip or spread rumors.

Write the letter of the phrase that defines each of the following.

5. _____ lie

a. people who speak and act based upon what they know about Jesus

6. _____ martyrs

b. information we hear but do not know to be true

7. _____ witnesses

c. deliberately make a false statement

8. _____ rumor

d. people who die rather than give up their belief in Jesus

Write a sentence to answer each question.

9. What can people do to make up for telling a lie?

10. How can you be a witness to Jesus?
