


# The Tenth Commandment

23

## WE GATHER

 **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



Name some people  
in your life who are  
generous.



## WE BELIEVE

### We are called to have generous hearts.

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.

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.

YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR  
NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.



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

- Darryl helped his father all summer. His father gave him a new bike for his hard work. Vinny sees the new bike and thinks, "I want that bike."
- Roberta and Carlos were finalists in the school spelling bee. Carlos misspelled a word that Roberta spelled correctly. Roberta won.
- 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.







## Jesus taught us to trust in God above all things.

“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.

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.

## As Catholics...

Some women and men become religious sisters, brothers, or priests. As members of religious communities, they make vows, or promises, to God. These vows are chastity, poverty, 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, power, or fame.

With your family find out which religious communities are serving in or near your town or city. Is there any way that you can help in their work?



Describe what is important to you in your life. Why is it important? Does it help you to love God and others?

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### Key Words

**envy** (p. 259)

**greed** (p. 260)





## Depending upon God brings happiness.

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. To be poor in spirit we must be trusting and open to God’s will. We need to be content with what we have and find joy in the simple things of life.

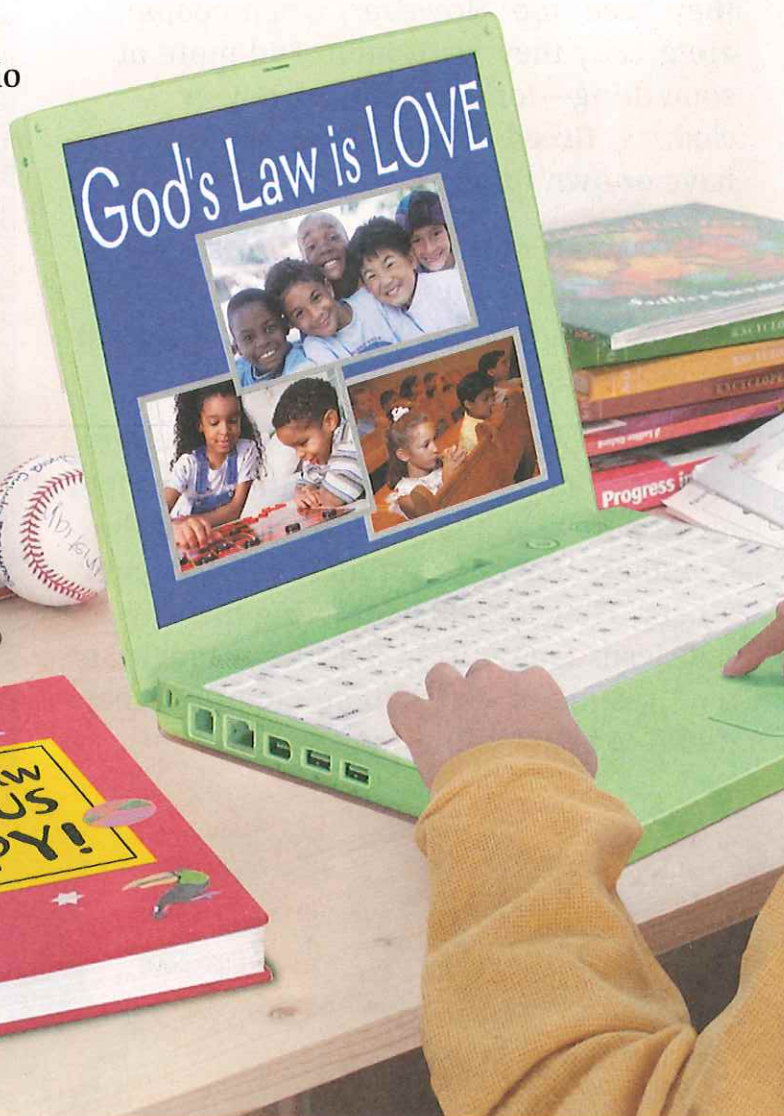
People who live by the Tenth Commandment place their trust in God. They follow the example of Jesus. Jesus always placed his trust in his Father. Jesus gave to those who were in need and cared for people who were sick or alone. Jesus asks all of his disciples to do the same. The Church shows that she is poor in spirit when she helps people who are in need.

YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR  
NEIGHBOR’S GOODS.

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. Instead, he helped those in need. We, too, are called to follow the words of Jesus and live by the Tenth Commandment.

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

### Jesus teaches us that God's law is love.

Jesus once 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. He showed that following the Ten Commandments brings the happiness that comes from friendship with God. When we follow the commandments, we do so with love for God, ourselves, and others.


Jesus 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 accepted all people and helped them to feel God's love. Jesus called all people to look into their hearts and think of the needs of others. His life and his words showed us that we must love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves. As Saint Paul wrote, "Love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10).



poor in spirit (p. 261)

### WE RESPOND

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

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



# PROJECT

## Show What *you* Know

Find the **Key Words** that answer the clues by writing the letter that comes BEFORE or AFTER the given letter in the alphabet.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1. Feeling of sadness when someone else has the things we want for ourselves

                          
F O W Z

2. An excessive desire to have or own things

                          
F Q D D C

3. Those who depend on God completely

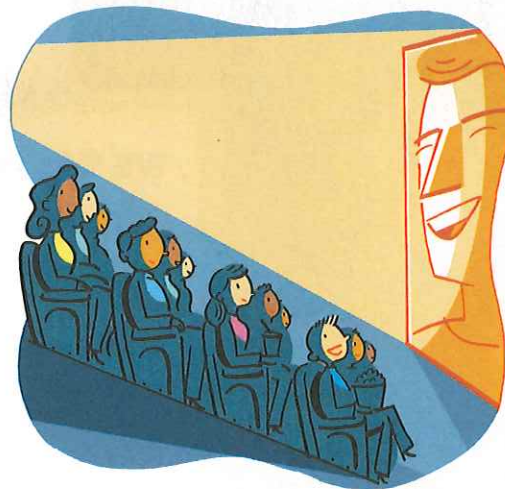
                                                             
Q P P S J O R O H Q H S

## More *to* Explore

Think of a favorite book, TV show, or movie in which one or more characters are envious and/or greedy. What were the effects of envy and/or greed on the story? Write them here.

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*Dear God, I want to be truly happy by trusting you and depending on you. I want to be poor in spirit. Help me to*

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## Saint Stories



As disciples, we are to treat every part of creation with respect: people, animals, plants, land, water, and air. Saint Isidore and Saint Maria were a married couple who were farmers in Spain. They cared respectfully for animals. They helped the poor. Saint Isidore and Saint Maria are the patron saints of farmers.

### DISCIPLE CHALLENGE

- Circle the word that says how we are to treat all of God's creation.
- Saint Isidore and Saint Maria are the patron saints of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Visit *Lives of the Saints* at [www.webelieveweb.com](http://www.webelieveweb.com).

## Reality Check

People who think of others in a loving and giving way develop a generous heart.

Who would you nominate for a "Generous Heart" award? Tell the reasons for your choice.

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## Take Home

With your family, write out the Ten Commandments (page 77). Then decide as a family one way to live out each commandment in the coming months.

# CHAPTER TEST

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

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ envy              | a. those who depend on God completely  |
| 2. _____ greed             | b. teaches us to examine our thoughts and feelings about the goods of this world |
| 3. _____ poor in spirit    | c. a feeling of sadness when someone else has the things we want for ourselves   |
| 4. _____ Tenth Commandment | d. an excessive desire to have or own things                                     |

Write True or False for the following sentences.

Then change the false sentences to make them true.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ True happiness comes from loving God and living as Jesus did.

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6. \_\_\_\_\_ People who are loving and giving develop an envious heart.

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7. \_\_\_\_\_ Trust in God is more important than money and success.

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8. \_\_\_\_\_ The Tenth Commandment relates to the Fourth Commandment because they both deal with the property of others.

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Answer the following.

9. Write one way we can be poor in spirit.

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10. Write one way that Jesus showed complete love of his Father and served others.

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