

Home-Learning Guide

The *Finding God* for Junior High Home-Learning Guide provides you with an opportunity to work with your junior-high child to grow together in faith. Whether you are doing home catechesis with your children or are seeking to be more deeply involved in their faith growth, the Home-Learning Guide will give you the tools you need.

The Home-Learning Guide can assist you if you find yourself in one of the following situations:

- In cooperation with your parish director of religious education, you have chosen to work on *Finding God* for junior high lessons with your child at home as part of the parish religious education program.
- Because of travel, illness, or injury, your child misses parish religious education sessions, and you wish to work with him or her at home in the interim.

GOING THROUGH A CHAPTER WITH YOUR JUNIOR-HIGH CHILD

By following the step-by-step process outlined below, you can go through the chapters of your junior high child's book, helping him or her to grow in faith. Follow these simple steps:

Begin each unit by inviting your child to read aloud the two-page introduction that describes the focus of the unit.

In each chapter, follow these four simple steps:

Step One: ENGAGE (the first page of the chapter)

Before beginning, review the information on the charts that follow, which tells you what to help your child know or do on each page. Set aside space for this important time. Work together on the first page of the chapter, inviting your child into conversation about aspects of his or her life that are connected to the theme of the chapter. Have your child complete the activity at the bottom of this page.

Step Two: EXPLORE (the second through the sixth or seventh page of each chapter)

Work with your child on the four or five pages of this section. Take turns reading aloud the two main articles in each chapter. Occasionally, invite your child to read an article quietly. Have your child highlight or underline key words and phrases that you wish to emphasize. Keep in mind the information from the charts that tells you what to help your child know or do on each page. When you are finished with the two main articles, go back and read the Sidebars and TidBytes (shorter features) throughout the chapter. Take time to look at the artwork, illustrations, and photographs and to talk about how they connect with the content on the page.

Step Three: REFLECT (the seventh or eighth page of each chapter)

Invite your child to prepare for reflective prayer with you. Slowly read the text on the prayer page(s), pausing after each sentence and praying along with your child. Encourage your child to imagine himself or herself in God's presence and to talk with God as one would talk with a friend. Allow some quiet time for both of you to do this. Together, take a minute or two at the end of the reflection to spend some silent time with God.

Step Four: RESPOND (the ninth page of each chapter)

Work with your child to read and complete the What's What?, Say What?, So What?, Now What?, and Here's What the Catholic Church Teaches features. These features help you and your child to review the main points of the chapter and invite your child to consider how he or she can apply what was learned to daily living. Be sure to have your child locate in the Glossary the definitions of the words listed under Say What? Since the 10th page of each chapter is an activity page for working in groups, you can skip this page.

End each unit by working together with your child on the Faith in Action feature (two pages at the end of each unit) to explore ways of putting into practice what was learned in the unit.

Unit 5: Morality, Chapter I

Following Jesus: Paul's New Direction

Saint Paul, raised a faithful, observant Jew, persecuted Jews who had become followers of Jesus. On the way to Damascus to arrest some Jewish Christians, Paul encountered the risen Jesus. (Acts of the Apostles 9:1–9) That event changed his life. In his dramatic conversion, he came to believe that we have been saved through the Paschal Mystery and that he was personally called to bring that message to the Gentiles.

Paul realized that, although the Law made him aware of sin and called him to avoid sin, it could not save him from sin. Paul called the salvation that God offers us in Jesus *justification*. He wrote that only faith in God justifies us and makes us righteous. (Romans 3:28).

Paul realized that faith in Jesus makes it possible to believe in the one true God. Faith makes it possible for us to obey the First Commandment and to truly believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him above all else. The First Commandment calls us to adore God, to pray to him, to offer him the worship that belongs to him, and to fulfill the promise we made to him.

ENGAGE

On page 227, help your child

- relate the notion of making a U-turn to the experience of conversion.

EXPLORE

On pages 228–233, help your child

- contrast Saul's life before his conversion to his life afterward.
- explain how God's grace and following God's law save us from the effects of original sin.
- identify the messages Saint Paul's letters hold for us today.
- identify different types of idols and explain what the First Commandment calls us to do.
- explain the meaning of *justification*.
- explain what Saint Paul teaches us about the name of Jesus.
- explain how we obey the Second Commandment.
- define *blasphemy*, *conversion*, and *righteousness*.

REFLECT

On page 234, help your child

- pray reflectively on God's presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 235, help your child

- identify ways to act on God's invitation in everyday living.

Celebrating Church: The Way, the Truth, and Life

The Ten Commandments are part of God's revelation of who he is. They state what is required for the love of God and love of neighbor. The first three concern love of God, and the other seven love of neighbor. The First Commandment reminds us that a constant temptation to faith is honoring or revering what is not God, such as power, pleasure, the state, or money. The Second Commandment requires respect for God's name, including the names of Jesus, the saints, and sacred objects. The Third Commandment requires us to honor the Sabbath. As Catholics, on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, we refrain from engaging in work or other activities that hinder our worship of God.

Living a moral life according to the Ten Commandments is our response to God's loving initiative. To guide us in living a moral life, God has given each of us a conscience—a judgment of reason by which we recognize the morality of a specific act. The education and formation of our conscience is a lifelong task and responsibility. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us with this task, as do the witness and advice of others and the teaching of the Church.

ENGAGE

On page 227, help your child

- relate his or her experience of following rules to obeying the Ten Commandments.

EXPLORE

On pages 228–233, help your child

- Describe how the Ten Commandments call us to authentic relationships with God and others.
- explain how the Ten Commandments protect the dignity of the human person.
- explain that Jesus sums up the commandments in his law of love.
- identify the Beatitudes as the way to serve God's kingdom.
- express an understanding of what it means to keep holy the Lord's Day.
- explain the role of conscience.
- define *moral law* and *Sabbath*.

REFLECT

On page 234, help your child

- pray reflectively on God's presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 235, help your child

- identify ways to act on God's invitation in everyday living.

Unit 5: Morality, Chapter 2

Following Jesus: Worshiping and Living in Holiness

Paul wrote to the Corinthians to address a number of problems that had arisen, including one concerning the celebration of the Eucharist. In the oldest description of Jesus' institution of the Eucharist (1 Corinthians 11:23–27), Paul reminded them of the true meaning of the Third Commandment—to keep holy the Lord's Day. Sunday is to be a day of rest, a day to cultivate our family, cultural, social, and religious lives. We should not make undue demands on others that would cause them not to have sufficient rest.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul wrote that the Fourth Commandment requires them to obey all proper authority in order to ensure the well-being of civil society and family life. Public authority is obliged to respect the fundamental rights of all people. Citizens' duty is to work with civil authority to build up society in a spirit of justice, solidarity, and freedom. Citizens, however, should not follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the moral law.

ENGAGE

On page 237, help your child

- relate the responsibilities of being a member of a club or team to the responsibilities stated in the Third and Fourth Commandments.

EXPLORE

On pages 238–243, help your child

- explain why Saint Paul was upset with the church in Corinth.
- explain how Sunday became the day Christians celebrate the Lord's Day.
- identify actions that show how we keep the Lord's Day holy.
- explain what Saint Paul teaches us about respecting authority.
- identify the implications of following the Fourth Commandment.
- recognize that even though the Fourth Commandment tells us to obey authority, we should not obey immoral laws.
- define *epistle*.

REFLECT

On page 244, help your child

- pray reflectively on God's presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 245, help your child

- identify ways to act on God's invitation in everyday living.

Celebrating Church: Honoring Life

The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor our parents to whom we owe life and who have handed on to us the knowledge of God. It also concerns the honor, affection, and gratitude we owe to members of our extended family. It also extends to the responsibilities we owe to all those in legitimate authority. When the demands of civil authorities are contrary to the demands of the moral order, we are obliged to follow our conscience instead.

The Fifth Commandment forbids killing: murder, abortion, and euthanasia. It also forbids the harboring of angry feelings that arise out of a deliberate hatred of another. We are to look upon our neighbor as another self without any exception, keeping in mind all that our neighbor needs to live with dignity. The Fifth Commandment reminds us that all citizens and governments are obliged to work for the avoidance of war. Everything done to overcome injustice, excessive economic or social inequalities, greed, envy, and distrust contributes to building peace and avoiding war.

ENGAGE

On page 237, help your child

- relate his or her experience of making choices to following the Ten Commandments.

EXPLORE

On pages 238–243, help your child

- identify the Fourth Commandment as one of the foundations for human society.
- explain how the Trinity teaches us about family.
- explain that the Fifth Commandment teaches us to love our enemies and to protect human life.
- identify the three considerations for making a moral choice: object, intention, and circumstances.
- define *abortion*.

REFLECT

On page 244, help your child

- pray reflectively on God's presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 245, help your child

- identify ways to act on God's invitation in everyday living.

Unit 5: Morality, Chapter 3

Following Jesus: Making Christian Choices

In Corinth, some people were concerned about eating meat that was bought in the market but previously had been part of a sacrifice to a Roman god. Paul gave the community advice on how to form their consciences without causing scandal. He told them that what they did, their intention in doing it, and the circumstances surrounding the decision had to be considered together in order to decide if the act was morally correct. Christians are responsible for making sure that their consciences are well formed, and then they should obey the judgment of their consciences.

Paul also reminded the Corinthians that the basic meaning of the Sixth Commandment is that every man and woman needs to acknowledge and accept his or her sexual identity. As a temple of the Holy Spirit, every baptized person is called to lead a chaste life. For single people, chastity means expressing their sexuality in ways other than in sexual intimacy. For married couples, chastity means remaining faithful to each other and not using morally unacceptable means of birth control.

ENGAGE

On page 247, help your child

- relate the experience of deciding what to do with his or her free time to making Christian choices.

EXPLORE

On pages 248–252, help your child

- summarize Saint Paul’s message to early Christians regarding the issue of eating meat that had been offered to idols.
- name the three dimensions of the morality of human acts.
- explain why Saint Paul told the early Christians that their bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit.
- recognize the moral implications of the food choices we make.
- identify images used by Saint Paul and Saint Peter to describe the Church.
- explain what the Sixth Commandment calls us to do.
- define *chastity* and *conscience*.

REFLECT

On pages 253–254, help your child

- pray reflectively on God’s presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 255, help your child

- identify ways to act on God’s invitation in everyday living.

Celebrating Church: Honoring Relationships

The Sixth Commandment concerns the proper use of our sexuality and the practice of chastity, to which we are all called, whether married or single. Chastity helps us be fully human, able to give our whole life and love to others. Chastity guides us to connect sexuality with the lifetime commitment of a husband and wife. Since sexual intimacy involves the total giving of oneself to another, it cannot take place outside the Sacrament of Matrimony. Since homosexuality is a deep-seated dimension of one’s personality, as is heterosexuality, homosexual men and women must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity as people who are called to fulfill God’s will in their lives. Like married people, they are called to lead chaste lives.

Outside the Sacrament of Matrimony, the virtue of chastity is expressed in friendship with one’s neighbor. Our friendships remind us that we have been created in God’s image and are called to friendship with him. Friendship with God our Father, with his Son, Jesus, and with the Holy Spirit is nurtured through prayer.

ENGAGE

On page 247, help your child

- relate his or her experiences of friendship to the concept of living a chaste life.

EXPLORE

On pages 248–253, help your child

- describe the Sixth Commandment as promoting the dignity of marriage.
- describe how we live and act when we follow the Sixth Commandment.
- explain that we prepare to live chaste lives by nurturing true friendships.
- express an understanding of how our friendship with God is nurtured in prayer.
- tell how the story of Ruth and Naomi is an example of faithfulness.
- define *adultery* and *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*.

REFLECT

On page 254, help your child

- pray reflectively on God’s presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 255, help your child

- identify ways to act on God’s invitation in everyday living.

Unit 5: Morality, Chapter 4

Following Jesus: Coworkers with God

Paul wrote to the Romans that original sin had an effect on nature. We can see that today in the many ecological crises around us. But just as we have been freed from sin through Jesus, creation itself can be freed from its slavery to corruption. Redeemed in Christ, Christians can make positive decisions for themselves and for the world. The Seventh Commandment tells us that we must practice justice and charity in the administration of earthly goods because the goods of God's creation belong to everyone. The Seventh Commandment forbids the taking of another person's goods, and it requires making reparations for stolen goods. It also demands that everyone has the right to receive what he or she needs to live a productive and healthy life.

Human beings are the center and the goal of all economic life. The goods created by God for everyone should reach everyone. Human beings participate in the work of creation; that is why work has its own dignity. By means of human labor, human beings participate in the work of creation. Our work increases our ability to respond to our vocation and to God's call to holiness.

ENGAGE

On page 257, help your child

- relate the idea of not being wasteful to the Seventh Commandment.

EXPLORE

On pages 258–262, help your child

- summarize Saint Paul's message to the Romans about creation.
- identify the things we can do to obey the Seventh Commandment.
- contrast the image of pagan gods with the portrait of God in Genesis.
- express an understanding of the dignity of work.
- give examples of ways we can participate in the work of creation.
- explain how cheating is a form of stealing.
- summarize Saint Paul's messages about generosity and slavery.
- define *dignity of work* and *social sin*.

REFLECT

On pages 263–264, help your child

- pray reflectively on God's presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 265, help your child

- identify ways to act on God's invitation in everyday living.

Celebrating Church: Honoring Others

The Seventh Commandment is concerned with the respect we owe to the goods of our neighbors. It also commands justice and charity in the care of earthly goods and the products of human labor. The Seventh Commandment calls us to be stewards of property, acknowledging that all things belong to God and are created for the good of everyone. Practicing the virtues of temperance, justice, and solidarity are required to show our respect for human dignity in economic matters and to moderate our attachment to the world's goods.

In solidarity we unite ourselves with our neighbor. Through the practice of justice, we strive to respect the rights of others, to give them their due, and to foster relationships that promote equity and the common good. The common good is the total of social conditions that allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment. The Church's social teaching calls us to ensure that temporal aspects of the common good are directed to the supreme good, God, who is our ultimate end.

ENGAGE

On page 257, help your child

- relate his or her experience of needing and wanting things to the Seventh Commandment.

EXPLORE

On pages 258–263, help your child

- describe how we live and act when we follow the Seventh Commandment.
- express an understanding of our call to live in a relationship of love with the entire human family.
- explain how Jesus is the supreme example of God's justice.
- describe the work of Saint Vincent de Paul.
- describe the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
- define *justice* and *encyclical*.

REFLECT

On page 264, help your child

- pray reflectively on God's presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 265, help your child

- identify ways to act on God's invitation in everyday living.

Unit 5: Morality, Chapter 5

Following Jesus: Living in the Truth

The Eighth Commandment calls us to be truthful in deeds and words. Deception is an offense against the truth and requires reparation. As Saint Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth, “Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) As new creations in Baptism, we are called to live in truth, demonstrating to others the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments warn us against coveting things we do not have. We should not be envious of others because envy can cause us to act in ways that will bring harm to ourselves and others. We can combat envy by exercising good will and humility and by trusting in God’s care. The Tenth Commandment tells helps us be grateful to God for what we have and to not let possessions dominate our lives. Because we are called to the Kingdom of God, we are called to let go of our attachment to things and to value people more than things.

ENGAGE

On page 267, help your child

- relate his or her experience of wanting things that others have to the message of the Ninth and Tenth Commandments.

EXPLORE

On pages 268–272, help your child

- tell about the life and work of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.
- summarize Paul’s message to the Ephesians about truth.
- describe what it means to be a truthful person and to obey the Eighth Commandment.
- summarize Paul’s messages about coveting things and loving others.
- recognize that the right attitude is one of gratefulness to God.
- give examples of what the Ninth and Tenth Commandments call us to do.
- summarize Paul’s message to those consumed by greed.
- define *envy*.

REFLECT

On pages 273–274, help your child

- pray reflectively on God’s presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 275, help your child

- identify ways to act on God’s invitation in everyday living.

Celebrating Church: Respecting Others

The Eighth Commandment forbids misrepresenting the truth in our dealings with others. Lying is the most direct offense against the truth. The Eighth Commandment also calls us to avoid the following: rash judgment (assuming the fault of a neighbor without sufficient reason); detraction (disclosing the fault of a neighbor to someone who has no need to know about that fault); and calumny (telling lies about a neighbor’s faults). Every offense against the truth requires reparation, either material reparation or moral satisfaction.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments forbid inordinate desires either for another person or for that person’s property. The capital sin of envy refers to the sadness we experience at the sight of another’s goods and the overpowering desire to have those goods for ourselves. Practicing temperance helps us counter greed and the desire to have more and more. Being pure of heart lets us see as God sees and lets us love chastely, with a moral and undivided heart.

ENGAGE

On page 267, help your child

- relate the Eighth Commandment to his or her experience of not being truthful.

EXPLORE

On pages 268–273, help your child

- identify the Eighth Commandment as the call to live in truth.
- describe the consequences of lying, calumny, and detraction.
- express an understanding of the Ninth and Tenth Commandments.
- explain the responsibility of the media as well as our responsibility when we listen to the media.
- identify what the Letter to James teaches about the power of words.
- explain how the seven deadly sins dull our spiritual senses.
- define *detraction* and *calumny*.

REFLECT

On page 274, help your child

- pray reflectively on God’s presence, his invitation, and our response.

RESPOND

On page 275, help your child

- identify ways to act on God’s invitation in everyday living.