



Growing Faith Mini-Course 8

Living the Commandments

Booklets # 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43

1 Description

This course asks and responds to the following questions about God and the Christian, Catholic faith to which we hold:

- What does each of the commandments ask of us?
- How did Jesus bring them to fulfillment?
- How do Christians follow the commandments?
- How does the church help us live as Christ teaches?
- What are the key dimensions of each command?

2 The flow of this mini-course...

The Growing Faith booklets used in this course include the ones listed below by number. The flow of this course is set by the *Catechism* itself, where each of the Commandments is presented within the context of God's great love for us and desire that we live in the Light.

- #37 Knowing and loving God: The first 2 commandments
- The first commandment calls us to believe in God, to hope in God, and to love God above all else.
 - Since it rejects or denies the existence of God, atheism is a sin against the first commandment.
 - The second commandment enjoins respect for the Lord's name. The name of the Lord is holy.
 - The second commandment forbids every improper use of God's name. Blasphemy is the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way.

#38 Sabbath, the 3rd commandment

- The ceremonial observance of the “sabbath,” has been replaced by Sunday which recalls the new creation inaugurated by the Resurrection of Christ.
- Sunday is to be considered the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.
- On Sundays, we are to avoid unnecessary labor and work, allowing time for family and friends.
- Every Christian should avoid making unnecessary demands on others that would hinder them from observing the Lord's Day.

#39 Households of Faith: parents and kids: the 4th commandment

- According to the fourth commandment, God has willed that we should honor our parents and those whom he has vested with authority for our good.
- Children owe their parents respect, gratitude, just obedience, and assistance.
- Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children.
- It is the duty of citizens to work with civil authority for building up society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom.

#40 On murder and the taking of life: the 5th commandment

- Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person is created in the image and likeness of God.
- The murder of a human being is gravely contrary to the dignity of the person and the holiness of the Creator.
- We are bound to reject abortion, to protect the embryo, and to defend life in every other way. The death penalty is normally against church teaching as well.
- The arms race is one of the greatest curses on the human race and the harm it inflicts on the poor is more than can be endured."

#41 Chastity the 6th and 9th Commandments

- By creating the human being man and woman, God gives personal dignity to the one and the other. Each of them, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his or her sexual identity.
- Chastity means the full and complete integration of sexuality within the person.
- The covenant which spouses have freely entered into entails faithful love. It imposes on them the obligation to keep their marriage indissoluble.

- The ninth commandment warns against lust or carnal concupiscence.

#42 Possessions, greed, and generosity: the 7th & 10th commandment

- The seventh commandment calls us to the practice of justice and charity in how we handle and manage earthly goods and the fruits of our labor.
- The goods of creation are destined for the entire human race. The right to private property does not abolish the universal destination of goods.
- The dominion granted by the Creator over the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe cannot be separated from respect for moral obligations, including those toward generations to come.
- The tenth commandment forbids avarice arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power.

#43 Honesty: the 8th commandment

- Truthfulness is the virtue which consists in showing oneself true in deeds and truthful in words.
- Respect for the reputation and honor of persons forbids all gossip, and speaking badly of others, even if it is a true statement.
- Lying consists in saying what is false with the intention of deceiving one's neighbor.
- The sacramental seal is inviolable. Professional secrets must be kept. Confidences prejudicial to another are not to be divulged.

3 Procedures and Suggestions

We recommend you follow the order for this course laid out above.

- ✚ Use the individual Growing Faith booklet [STUDY GUIDES](#) for each session (they're free & available at [PastoralPlanning.com](#)).
 - Begin with the first step on the [STUDY GUIDE](#) and follow the outline provided to the end of that session.
 - Do not rush the learners. Allow ample time for questions and discussion. Allow the learners to explore the various exercises and topics thoroughly before moving on.
 - If necessary, spread the treatment of any one booklet over two sessions rather than running late and long. If you finish early in one particular session, simply move to refreshments and pick up next time at the beginning of the next booklet.
 - Have on hand a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for reference. The article numbers from the *Catechism* are given on the front cover of each Growing Faith booklet.

- ✚ Make ample use of the [Exercises & Reflections](#) which are given in each booklet. Use them to guide your discussions. Remember that the goal here is not so much to create “mini-theologians” among your learners as to help increase their faith and the understanding of that faith.

- ✚ Work in a room which is [prepared for your gathering](#). Remember that your learners are exploring the mystery of faith in these sessions, not studying theology as they would in college or religion class. You may wish to have on hand sacred music, a special copy of Sacred Scripture in an honored position in the room, and symbols of the Church’s liturgy and faith tradition.

- ✚ At each gathering, begin by [Breaking Open the Word](#) from the readings of the liturgy from the previous Sunday. We provide a resource for this purpose on the web site at this link: <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/quofwerere.html>. The connection to the Sunday Liturgy is essential in order to have a thoroughly Catholic understanding of faith.

- ✚ If you have questions or need assistance, or simply wish to talk with a specialist about your mini-course, call anytime 8 AM eastern to 5 PM pacific time, Monday thru Friday at [612-220-6943](tel:612-220-6943).