

Lesson 2

The Lord our God

Objective:

To understand the significance of the First Commandment in worshiping God alone and to recognize the sins against it, while cultivating a deeper understanding of faith, hope, and love in our daily lives.

Introduction (Starter):

Begin the lesson by sharing the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac when his faith was tested and strengthened by his commitment to worshiping and obeying God alone. Highlight the significance of the First Commandment in guiding our relationship with God amidst life's challenges.

Presentation of the topic:

1. *Encounter with Jesus in the Temple:* Set the stage with the scene of Jesus teaching in the temple and the encounter with the lawyer questioning Him about the greatest commandment.
2. *The First Commandment Revealed:* Summarize the essence of the First Commandment as the call to love and worship God alone, highlighting its origin in the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt.
3. *Sins against the First Commandment:* Explore various forms of idolatry, atheism, superstition, and blasphemy that violate the principle of worshiping God alone, emphasizing their detrimental effects on faith and spiritual growth.
4. *Divine Virtues: Faith, Hope, and Love:* Discuss the divine virtues of faith, hope, and love as foundational to Christian life, explaining how they relate to our relationship with God and our response to His love.
5. *Worship of God as Our Duty:* Examine the importance of worshiping God as our Creator and Protector, emphasizing the role of prayer, liturgy, and the Mass in expressing our faith and reverence for God.

Practical Application:

- *Practical Usage in Daily Life:* Encourage students to reflect on ways they can live out the First Commandment in their daily lives, such as through prayer, avoiding superstition, and placing God above all else.
- *Habit Formation:* Discuss habits that cultivate a deeper relationship with God, such as regular prayer, attending Mass, and studying Scripture.
- *Attitude Formation:* Emphasize attitudes of reverence, humility, and gratitude in our approach to God, contrasting them with attitudes of idolatry and disbelief.
- *Virtue of the Lesson:* Highlight the virtue of worshiping God alone as a pathway to spiritual fulfillment and eternal life.

Bible Verse:

Reflect on Mark 12:29-30: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength." - where Jesus affirms the importance of loving the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, as the first and greatest commandment.

Activity:

Divide the students into small groups and assign each group a specific scenario related to the First Commandment, such as resisting peer pressure to engage in idolatrous practices or finding strength in prayer during challenging times. Instruct each group to create a tableau or freeze-frame depicting their assigned scenario and present it to the class. After each presentation, facilitate a discussion on the moral dilemmas depicted and the importance of staying faithful to God's commandments.

Conclusion:

Summarize the key teachings of the lesson, emphasizing the importance of worshiping God alone, cultivating divine virtues, and resisting temptations to stray from His path. Encourage students to reflect on their own commitment to honouring the First Commandment in their lives and to seek strength and guidance from God in staying faithful to His commandments.