

Grade 4

Theme: Christian Morality

Grade 4 looks at the moral life we are called to live as followers of Jesus. As individuals we have the freedom to choose the kind of life we will live – whether it is a life of grace or sin. The Ten Commandments, along with Jesus’ teachings as found in the Beatitudes and the Works of Mercy, show us what it means to choose a life of grace.

Key Concepts

The Blessed Trinity
Mary and the Saints
Grace, Free Will, Conscience, Sin
Heaven, Hell, Purgatory
The Church Year
The Church
The Sacraments
Covenant/Ten Commandments/Great Commandment
Beatitudes
Works of Mercy

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Blessed Trinity

1. The Trinity is a loving community of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Each member of the Trinity helps us to live the life God wants us to live in different ways.
 - a. God the Father creates us to love and gives us grace – God’s life and loving presence to help us.
 - b. Jesus shows us how to live as sons and daughters of the Father.
 - c. The Holy Spirit guides us through the Seven Gifts of the Spirit – wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.
3. The Kingdom of God is God’s saving power of life and love in the world.
4. When we live and treat others with love, we bring about the Kingdom of God.

Mary and the Saints

1. The Immaculate Conception means that God prepared Mary to be the mother of Jesus by preserving her from original sin.
2. The rosary is a special prayer of the Church that helps us reflect upon our salvation through the lives of Jesus and Mary.
3. The Saints, past and present, are people who choose to love God above all things.
4. We are all called to be saints.

Grace, Free will, Conscience, Sin

1. God has given us the gifts of grace, free will and conscience.
2. Grace is God's own life within us, which we received at Baptism.
3. We grow in God's grace through reception of the sacraments.
4. Free will is the freedom to make decisions.
5. With free will we can choose to make good choices or to sin.
6. Conscience helps us to judge our actions as right or wrong.
7. Our conscience, or ability to judge right from wrong, is formed by the teachings of the Jesus – The Ten Commandments, The Law of Love, the Beatitudes, and the teachings of the Church Magisterium.
8. Sin is turning away from God.
9. Mortal sin is a complete break in our relationship with God and others.
10. There are three conditions necessary for mortal sin:
 - a. It must be a serious matter.
 - b. We must know it is seriously wrong.
 - c. We must freely choose to do it.
11. Venial sins are less serious and weaken our relationship with God and others.
12. Social sins result in social injustice, by creating unjust conditions for others.
13. Social sin reminds us that we are all related because we are all sons and daughters of God.
14. Examples of social sin are racism, discrimination, sexism.

Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Last Judgement

1. Our lives will be judged by how well we loved, followed and lived the Commandments, Beatitudes, and Works of Mercy.
2. Heaven is everlasting happiness in God's presence.
3. Purgatory is an experience of additional purifying and preparation for heaven after our death.
4. Hell is eternal separation from God caused by a person's rejection of the covenant and refusal of God's mercy and forgiveness.
5. The Last Judgement does not change a person's judgement that is experienced at death, but marks the coming of the Kingdom of God in its fullness.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

The Church Year

1. The Church celebrates different seasons during the year to help us prepare for Jesus.
2. There are special feast days that celebrate events in Jesus' and the saints' lives.
3. Seasons and feasts to cover: Feast of All Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

The Church

1. The Church is both Mother and Teacher.
2. As Mother, the Church gives us new life through Baptism.

3. As Teacher, the Holy Spirit guides the Church, and the Church helps us to know how to share the Good News of Jesus' message.
4. The Church teaches us through Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium.
5. The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church as found in the chief teachers of the Church – the pope and the bishops.
6. As members of the Church we should also teach others and the world about Jesus.
7. Some of the duties of Catholics are summed up in the Precepts of the Church, which help us to live as responsible members of the Church.

The Sacraments

1. We become members of the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
2. The Sacrament of Reconciliation enables us to experience God's mercy and forgiveness when we sin.

Our Faith Lived Our Moral Life and the Church's Social Justice Teaching Leading to Mission - Service through Action

Covenant/The Ten Commandments/Great Commandment

1. God established a covenant – a sacred agreement based on a loving relationship with the people of Israel.
2. This covenant is reflected in the Ten Commandments
3. The first three Commandments show us how we should relate with love to God.
4. The last seven Commandments show us how we should relate with love to others.
5. Study each of the Ten Commandments, and understand their meaning for today.
6. When Jesus came he gave us the Great Commandment – love God and others as Jesus loves us - and taught us that this is the basis of all we do.
7. Living a moral life means following the Ten Commandments and Jesus' Law of Love.

Beatitudes

1. Jesus gave us the Beatitudes, which tell us the way to live if we wish true happiness.
2. If we live the Beatitudes, putting God and others first, we will help to bring about the Kingdom of God – the reign of God in the hearts of all the people we meet.
3. Study each one of the Beatitudes, and understand their meaning for today.

Works of Mercy

1. Living a life of Commandment and Beatitude means doing the Works of Mercy.
2. The Corporal Works of Mercy means caring for the physical needs of others.

3. The Spiritual Works of Mercy means caring for the spiritual needs of others.
4. Study each of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and understand their meaning for today.

Our Moral Life

1. Through the Sacrament of Marriage, God asks each man and woman to be loyal and faithful to each other.
2. The differences between being a man or woman are gifts from God, and are an expression of God's love for us.
3. Through the sixth and ninth commandments, God reminds men and women that they should be faithful to their marriage vows, and that the expression of love should be kept for marriage.

Social Justice Teaching

1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
2. As the Church, we are meant to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
3. One of the commands Jesus gave us is the Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25: 31-46), and by his life showed us the Spiritual Works of Mercy, which teach us how to care for the needs of others.
4. As followers of Jesus we should do the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Suggested Action

1. As a class, talk about the corporal needs of people in the parish and wider community.
2. Decide upon an action that the class could do, based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
3. As a class, plan and complete the action of bringing the Good News of God's and the Church's care and concern to the person(s).

Our Faith Prayed

Required Prayers and Doctrine

Review of Grade 3 Prayers:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition
6. Mass responses
7. Apostles' Creed

Prayers and Doctrine to add

1. Ten Commandments
2. Beatitudes
3. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Suggestions for Prayer Services

1. A Prayer Service can be created around any of the following:
(It would be good is the Social Action and Prayer Service were on the same topic and reinforced each other.)
 - a. Ten Commandments
 - b. Beatitudes
 - c. Works of Mercy
2. Allow the students individually, or in a group, to depict how they would put into practice a Commandment, Beatitude, or Work of Mercy.