

# RECONCILIATION: INTER-RELATING



# LO: Freedom involves responsibility.



What does  
freedom mean?

What does  
responsibility mean?

Does it mean the  
same for everyone?

Why?

Read the following story:

### **After school**

Daniel and Samantha had been secretly saving their pocket money for six weeks to buy their Mum a birthday present. They had seen her admiring some earrings in the jeweller's shop in town, so they decided they would get off their bus in town and buy them. When they got to town they went to the shop, only to find it was closed, so they decided to find another shop. After a long search, they found another jeweller's where they had the same earrings. They bought them and went back to catch their bus.

Meanwhile, at home, their Mum was very worried. It was nearly 5.30 and Daniel and Samantha weren't home. She rang up the school and was told they had gone home. She rang a few friends, but the children weren't there. "I shall have to ring the police if they don't turn up soon," she said to herself.



Christian Responsibility  
Originates in God's Love



### Questions to discuss

- What do you think happened when Daniel and Samantha got home? Why?
- What would the main issues be for Daniel and Samantha?
- What would the main issues be for their Mum?
- Has anything like that happened to you? What did you learn from the experience?
- What freedom does the Mother have a right to?
- What freedom do the children have a right to?
- What do you think is responsible and irresponsible behaviour and what are your reasons?
- What do you think Mum, Samantha and Daniel have learnt from the experience and what do you think they will do in future?

### Your Task:

**Freedom and responsibility: Create a mind map of related words and symbols**

# LF1: The giving of the Ten Commandments.



People who want to live or work together make rules for themselves. The rules give them freedom to live as they wish, but at the same time, be responsible for the happiness of the whole group.

This story (Ten Commandments) is found in the Book of Exodus, which is the story of the Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. The book of Exodus is one of the five books which make up the Jewish Torah or law.

Read the scripture on the following slides

After Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they wandered in the desert for many years. They were glad they were free, but it was hard going at times. Sometimes they were hungry and thirsty, then they began to grumble. But God provided for them, in spite of their grumbles and they knew that God was with them leading and guiding them.

As they made their way through the desert they lived together as a community learning to care for each other's needs, but above all learning to know and worship the God who had saved them. When they reached a very high mountain called Mount Sinai, Moses ordered the people to camp at the foot of it and not to climb its slopes, because it is God's mountain. Moses himself began to climb and asked the people to pray that God would teach them the laws which would bring them together as a people. Moses stayed on the mountain for a very long time, praying and talking with God. Then he returned to God's people and gave them God's Laws: The Ten Commandments. These were to help the people to live in freedom and to be responsible for their actions.



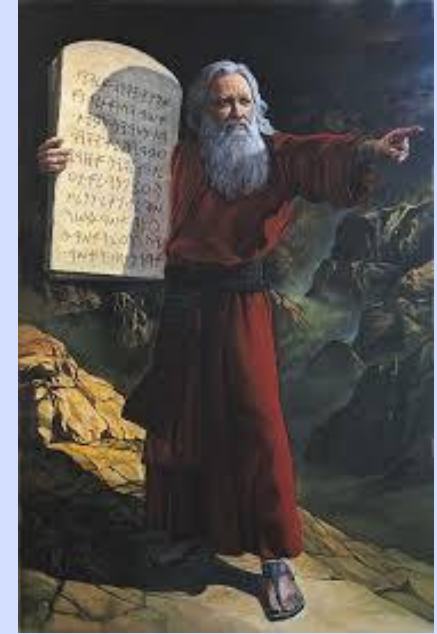
### Questions to discuss:

- Why are rules necessary to enable people to co-exist successfully?
- Why was this particularly true for the Israelites wandering in the desert?
- In what way do rules and laws bring freedom to people who follow them?
- Why did Moses feel it was his duty to seek advice from God on rules to live by?
- Would all the rules necessarily be about religious belief and practice? Why?
- Why would the Israelites accept these rules from Moses?

### Your Task:

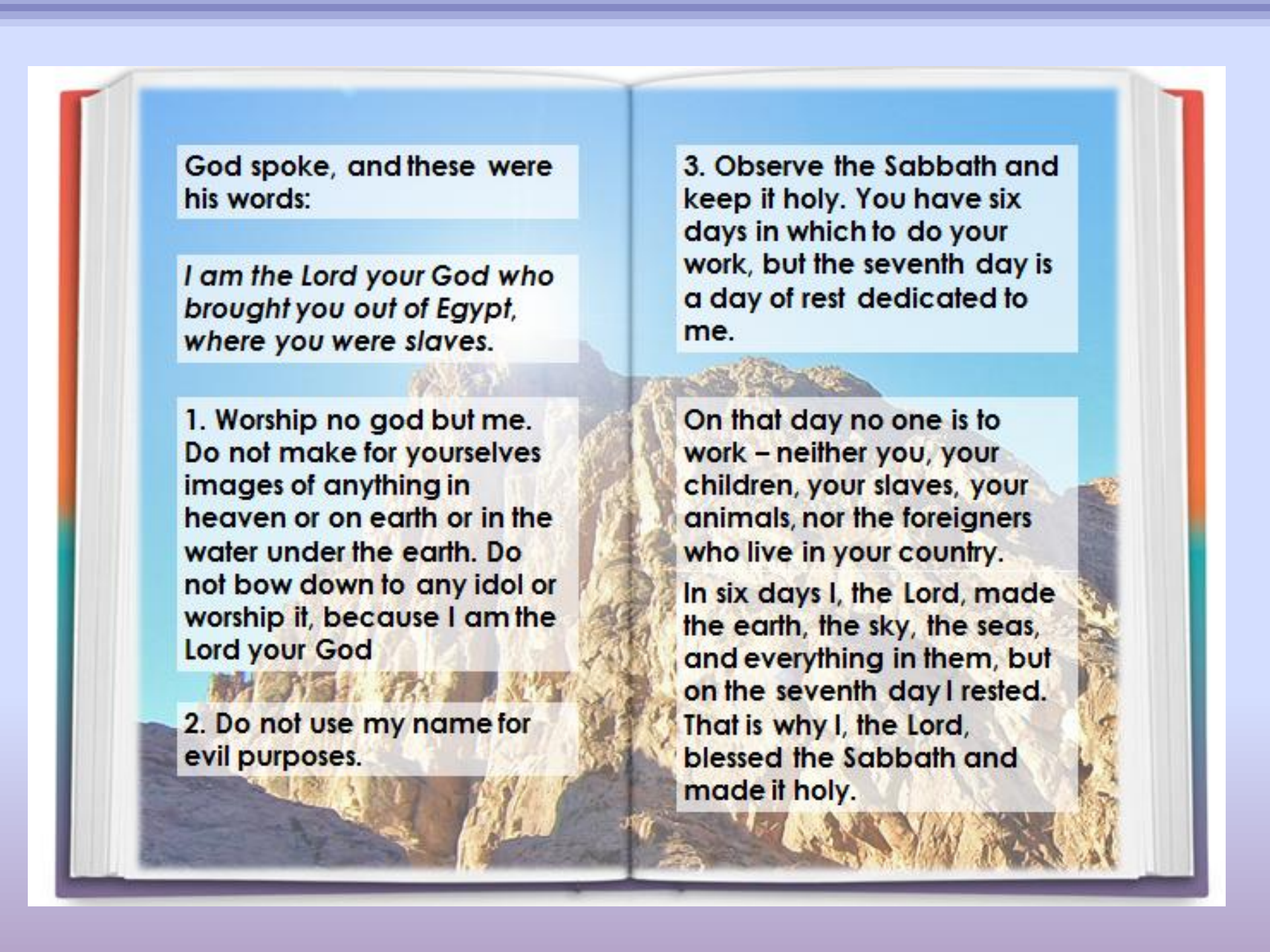
Prepare a set of questions to ask Moses:  
was it necessary to present the Israelites with God's Law?  
What happened on Mount Sinai?

# LF2: The Ten Commandments.



The story of the Ten Commandments is found in the Book of Exodus 20: 1-17 and in the Book of Deuteronomy 5: 1-21. Moses reminds the people again about them. Christians share these Commandments with Jewish people.





God spoke, and these were his words:

*I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves.*

1. Worship no god but me. Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God

2. Do not use my name for evil purposes.

3. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me.

On that day no one is to work – neither you, your children, your slaves, your animals, nor the foreigners who live in your country.

In six days I, the Lord, made the earth, the sky, the seas, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That is why I, the Lord, blessed the Sabbath and made it holy.

4. Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you.

5. Do not kill.

6. Do not be unfaithful.

7. Do not steal.

8. Do not lie against your neighbour.

9. Do not be greedy and want what other people own.

10. Do not take another's husband or wife.

אנוכי ה'

לא יהיה

לא תישא

זכור את

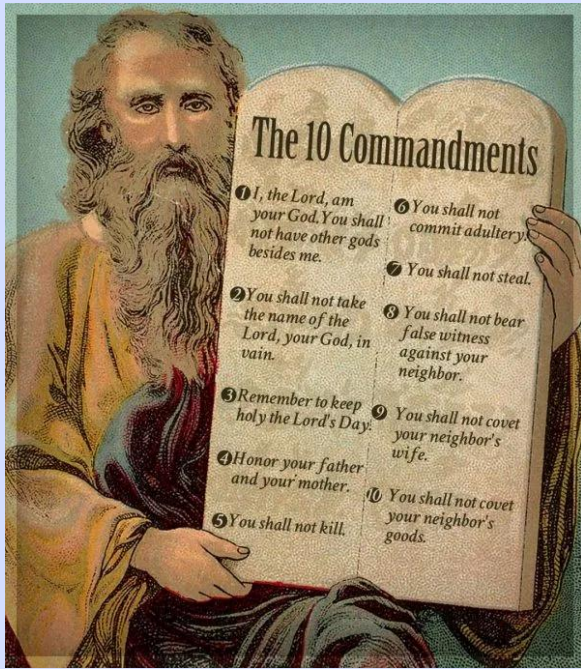
כבוד את

Based on Exodus 20 1-17  
(Come and See)

This list is from the Book of Exodus; God spoke, and these were his words:

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves."

1. Worship no god but me. Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God.
2. Do not use my name for evil purposes.
3. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me. On that day no one is to work - neither you, your children, your slaves, your animals, nor the foreigners who live in your country. In six days I, the Lord, made the earth, the sky, the seas, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That is why I, the Lord, blessed the Sabbath and made it holy.
4. Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you.
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6. Do not be unfaithful.
7. Do not steal.
8. Do not lie against your neighbour.
9. Do not be greedy and want what other people own.
10. Do not take another's husband or wife.



### Your Task:

Explain how Christians live out the commandments and give reasons.

See next slide for an example

### Questions to discuss

- Which Law do you think is most important and why?
- How do you think these Laws helped the Israelites to live in harmony with one another?
- Which day do Jewish people observe as the Sabbath?
- How do they keep it holy and make it a day of rest?
- Which day of the week is the holy day for Christians?
- How should Christians observe this?
- Who are the first three Laws concerned with and why?
- Who are Laws 4 - 10 concerned with?
- Which of these beliefs and values are most important to us today and why?

Commandment	How?	Reason for action
Worship no God but me	Through prayers and actions	Being thankful to God
Observe the Sabbath	Going to Mass - rest and do things with your family	Respecting the Sabbath and God's creation
Do not steal	Do not give in to temptation	Honesty and being trust worthy
Do not lie against your neighbour	Tell the truth, be honest	Leads to a happier life
Do not be greedy and want what other people own	Share, be grateful for what you have	More content this way

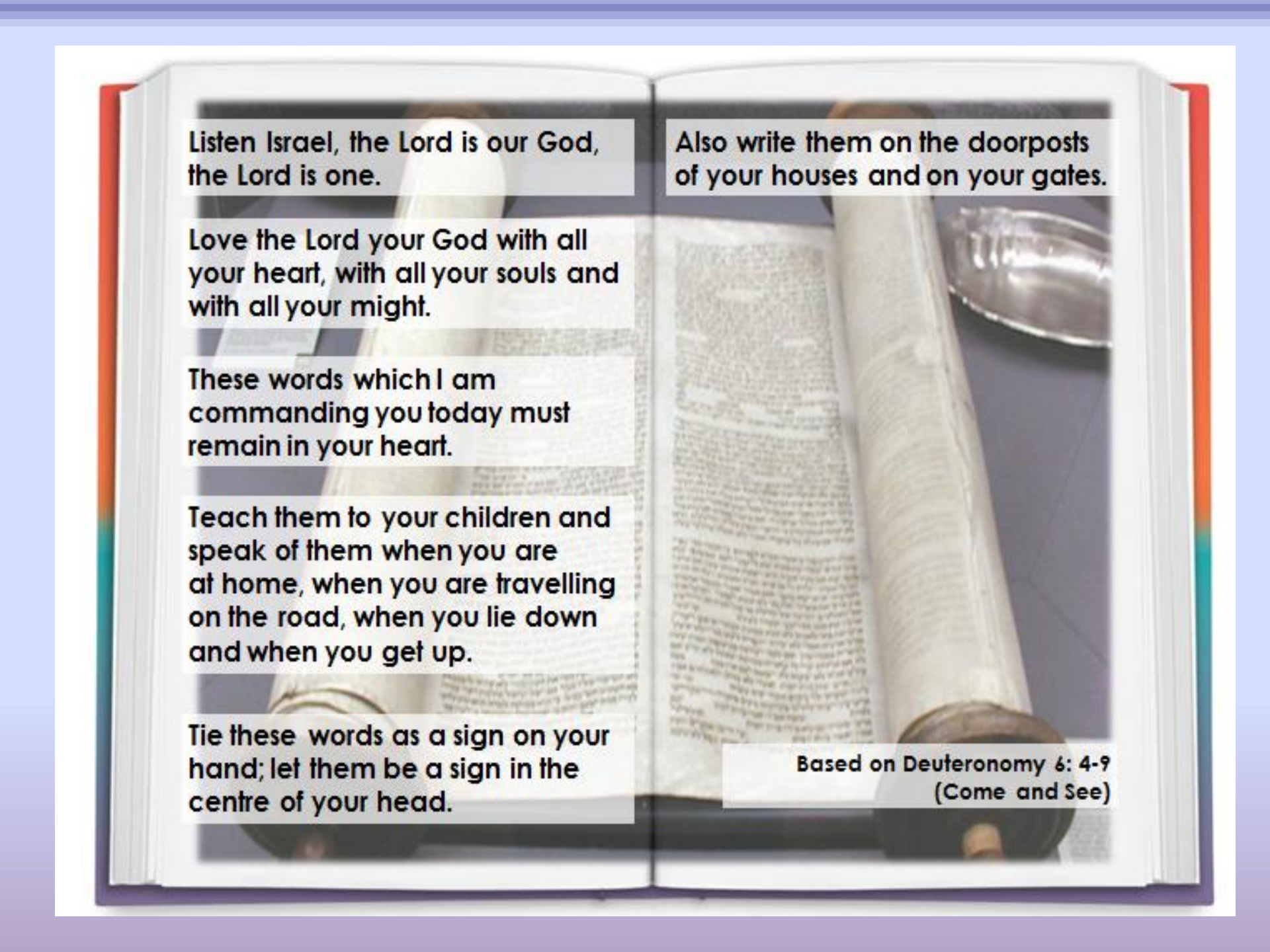
# LF3: The Greatest Commandment.



God gave Moses some commandments and rules for his people. These helped the people to love God and live in peace with each other. In the Book of Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, which is part of the Torah, God gives his people a special reminder of their responsibility to love God. It is a prayer called the Shema. It helps the Jewish people to focus on the day ahead and on the day that has just gone. It is a commitment to belief. It shows belief in God. The Shema is recited twice a day by Jewish people and is a special prayer in the synagogue.

Read the scripture on the following slides.





**Listen Israel, the Lord is our God,  
the Lord is one.**

**Love the Lord your God with all  
your heart, with all your souls and  
with all your might.**

**These words which I am  
commanding you today must  
remain in your heart.**

**Teach them to your children and  
speak of them when you are  
at home, when you are travelling  
on the road, when you lie down  
and when you get up.**

**Tie these words as a sign on your  
hand; let them be a sign in the  
centre of your head.**

**Also write them on the doorposts  
of your houses and on your gates.**

**Based on Deuteronomy 6: 4-9  
(Come and See)**

The chief priests and scribes heard about the work and teaching of Jesus. They tried to find some way of getting rid of him, but they were afraid because the people followed him.

So they sent some Pharisees and scribes to ask him questions and try to catch him out.

One of the scribes asked him, "What commandment is the most important of all?"

Jesus replied, "The most important one is this, 'Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength'.

The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'.

There is no other commandment more important than these two."

Based on Mark 12: 28-31  
(God's Story 3)





LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOUR

AS



YOURSELF  
MATTHEW 22:39

### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the Pharisees and scribes ask Jesus what commandment is the most important of all?
- What do you think it means to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength?
- What has Jesus added to the Shema and what difference does that make?
- How do we love our neighbours as we love ourselves?
- How do we love and care for ourselves well?
- How do these two commandments given by Jesus sum up all the Ten Commandments?
- How do you think these two commandments give you freedom and what is the responsibility?

### Your Task:

Write a prayer or a poem asking God to help you to love a neighbour more fully.

# LF4: Using freedom for good.



Isaiah emphasises the freedom God gives us to make choices and that these should be used responsibly. There is advice on what we can do for other people rather than adopt selfish attitudes. Isaiah tells us God is given pleasure by seeing what we do for others. This behaviour is what God hopes will inspire others and permeate throughout the whole world - love, kindness, generosity, consideration, as these are signs that we have learnt from God's love for us and wish to share it with others..

Read the scripture on the following slide.

An open book with text overlays on a background image of people helping a person in a wheelchair. The background image shows a person in a white shirt and dark pants being assisted by others. One person is wearing a red and white athletic uniform with the number 67 on their sleeve. The book is open to two pages, with the text on the left page and the right page. The text is in a bold, black font on a white background.

**God says, Be clear about what is right and what please me!**

**Giving up things and putting on a miserable face does not impress me.**

**What brings me joy is everything that brings freedom:**

**a kindly word for someone who is worried;**

**a helping hand for someone in trouble.**

**When people share food with the hungry and help the homeless find shelter;**

**if they give clothes to those in need and work at bringing happiness to their family and friends, I see my love growing in them.**

**This is what pleases me, and they will become signs of hope for everyone, like a bright sunrise after a long dark night.**

**Based on Isaiah 58: 3-8  
(God's Story 3)**



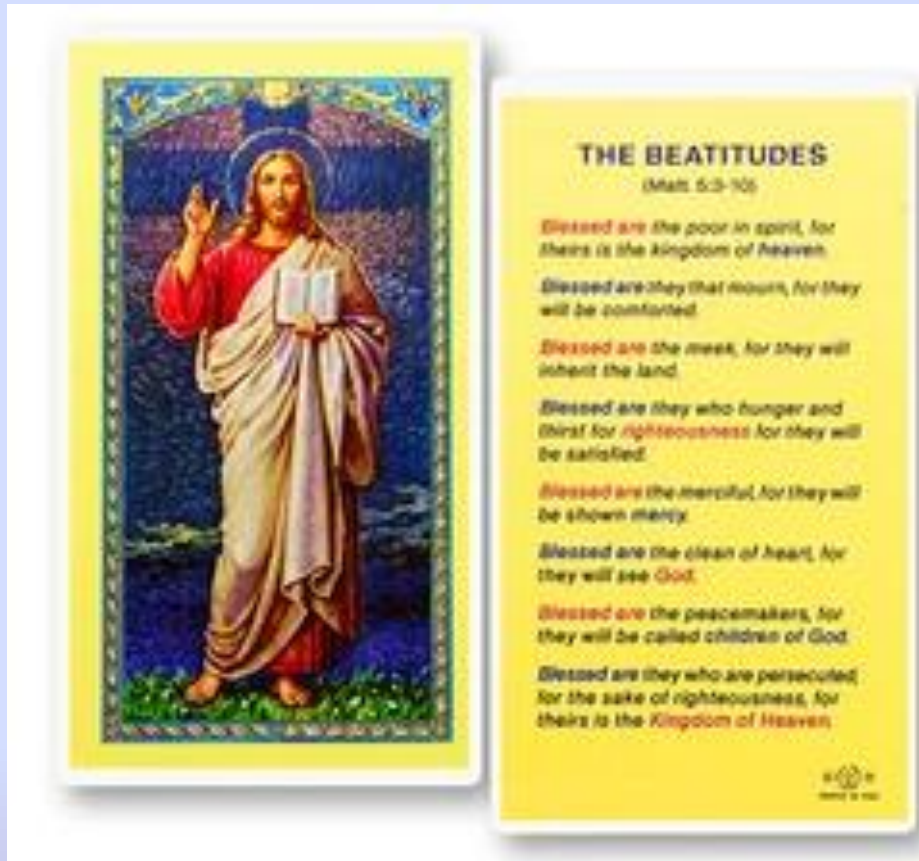
### Discussion Questions

- What behaviour mentioned by Isaiah does not impress God?
- What are some of the positive things God wants us to do?
- How does Isaiah's advice link with the Ten Commandments?
- Can we keep the rules that God gives us and why?
- Why has Isaiah used the idea of sunrise in the last line? What do you think it means?

### Your Task:

Design a poster entitled 'Be one of God's people' - describe some of the ways Christians live out Isaiah's message.

# LF5: The Beatitudes.



Matthew's Gospel collects Jesus' teaching together in what is called the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew's Jewish readers would remember how Moses brought God's law (rules) to the people. Matthew wants his readers to recognise Jesus as the new Moses, calling people to a new way of living.

## Jesus the Teacher

Matthew's gospel collects Jesus' teaching in what is called the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew's Jewish readers would remember Mount Sinai and how Moses brought God's law to the People.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus says very clearly, "I have not come to do away with the Law or the teachings of the prophets."

Matthew wants his readers to recognise Jesus as the 'new Moses' calling all people to a new way of living.

## A NEW WAY OF LIVING (based on Matthew 5: 1-17)

**W**hen he saw the crowds Jesus went up the mountain and sat down. His disciples gathered round him and this is what he taught them.

You will be blessed when you have an open and generous heart.

When you share what you have with other people

God will be very close to you.

You will be blessed when you reach out to those who grieve.

When you make friends with those who are sad and lonely,

God will be there to comfort you.

You will be blessed when you are gentle.

When you treat others with kindness and patience

God will give you all you need.

You will be blessed when you work for justice.

When you respect and stand up for the rights of others,

God will give you life to the full.

You will be blessed when you forgive others and don't hold grudges.

You will find God ready to forgive you.

You will be blessed when you desire what is good.

When you always search for what is good, you will find God in all around you.

You will be blessed when you are a peacemaker.

When you try not to let a quarrel even begin or are first to say sorry

you will be known as children of God.

You will be blessed when you are made fun of for doing what God wants.

When people laugh at you for living in God's way,

know that you are very close to God.

Remember what happened to so many of God's messengers.

Rejoice and be glad.

## **The Beatitudes** ([Matthew 5:3-12](#))

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

Blesses are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.









Blessed are ye when they shall revile you, and persecute you, and speak all that is evil against you, untruly, for my sake: Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven.



# The Beatitudes.

## Discussion Questions

- Which Beatitude do you like best and why?
- In what way are the Beatitudes different from the Ten Commandments?
- How does what Jesus says link to Isaiah's advice from Focus 4?
- How does Jesus want us to live?
- How will we be rewarded for living in this way?

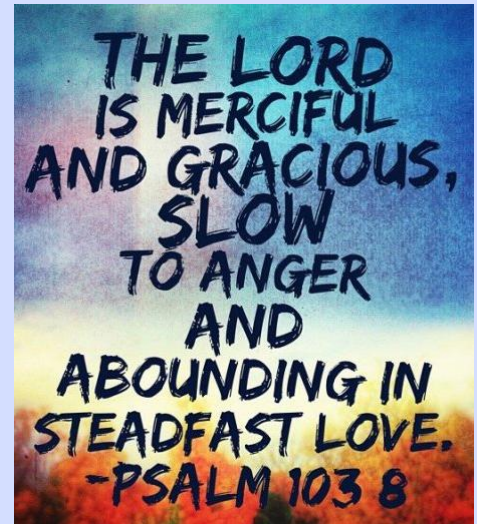
 <p>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:3</p>	<p>Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:4</p> 	 <p>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:5</p>
<p>Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:6</p>	 <p>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:7</p>	<p>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:8</p> 
 <p>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:9</p>	 <p>Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:10</p>	<p>Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me.</p> <p>MATTHEW 5:11</p> 

## Your Task:

Using the Beatitudes, list ways in which these could be used in our daily lives and why and this would be.

## LF6: God is loving and merciful.

Sometimes we can misuse the freedom we have and use it irresponsibly. We forget to love God and our neighbour. It may not be by something that we do, but by something that we omit to do.



'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing'.  
Edmund Burke 1729-1797

Amos was a prophet who lived long before Jesus and challenged the people to care for the poor and those in need. Prophets reminded them of God's love and of the kind of people they were called to be.

Read the scripture on the following slides

**Always aim to do what is good and avoid what is evil, so that you will live as God's people; and when you say that your God is with you, it really will be true.**

**Hate what is wrong; love what is right.**

**Make sure that justice is done for everyone, so that your God will show mercy to you.**



**Based on Amos 5: 14-15  
God's Story 3**

At times when we do not follow these instructions, we need reconciliation and forgiveness from God. We know that God is loving and merciful and that He will always forgive us.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrate God's love and mercy. We learn about the joys and challenges of living as a follower of Jesus in love and peace. During the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation the Church celebrates the love and mercy of God. It calls people to confess their sins, ask for forgiveness and be reconciled to God and to one another.



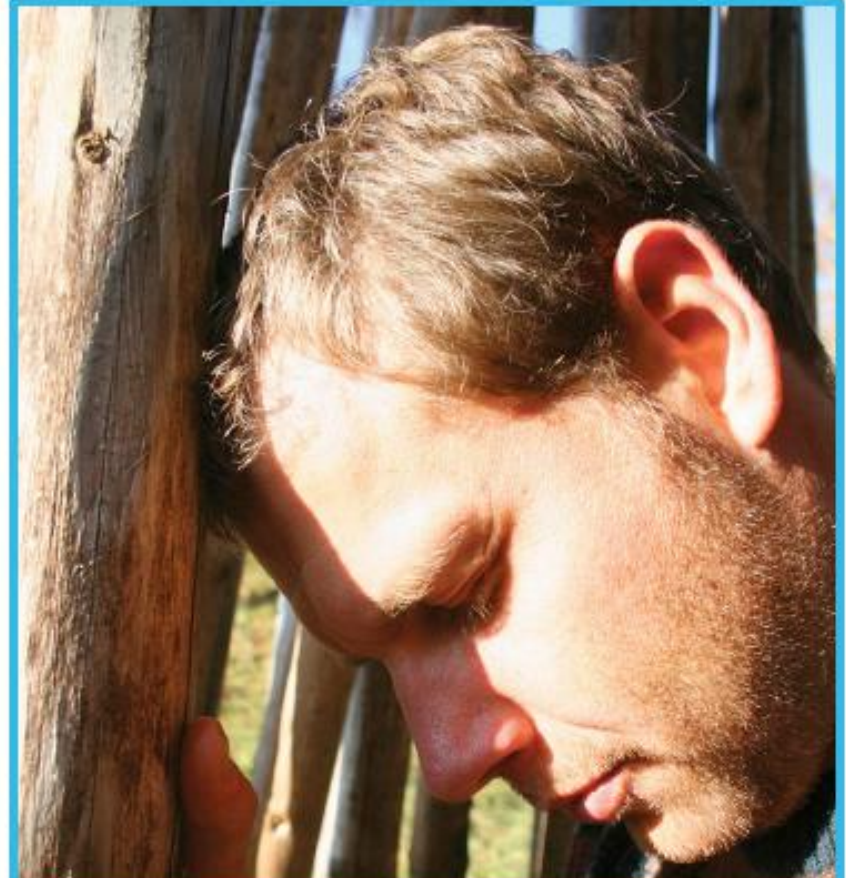
Compare the act of contrition with the reading from Amos.

**Always aim to do what is good and avoid what is evil, so that you will live as God's people; and when you say that your God is with you, it really will be true.**

**Hate what is wrong; love what is right.**

**Make sure that justice is done for everyone, so that your God will show mercy to you.**

Based on Amos 5: 14-15  
God's Story 3



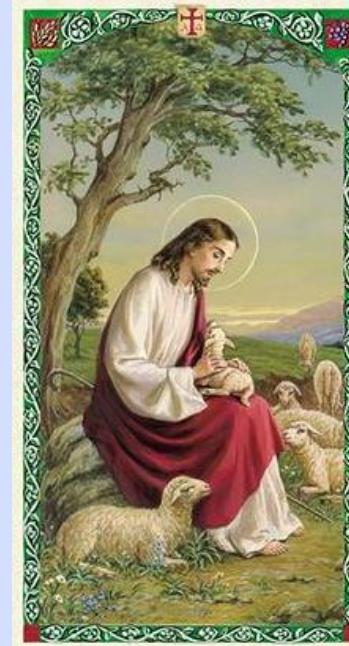
**O my God, because you are so good,  
I am very sorry that I have sinned  
against you  
and with the help of your grace I will not  
sin again.  
Amen**

## Discussion Questions

- Compare the Act of Contrition with the reading from Amos; how does he tell us to live?
- In the Act of Contrition what promise are we making to God?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to keep this promise?
- What should we do if we break this promise?

## Your Task:

Design your own prayer card for the Act of Contrition



## Act of Contrition

O My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life.

Amen.



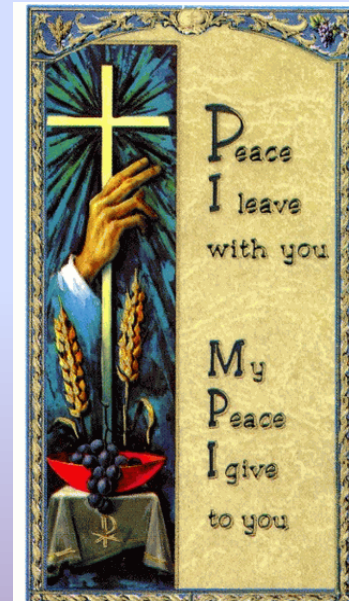
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## AN ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God,  
I am heartily sorry for having offended You.  
I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell.  
But most of all because they offend You, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love.  
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.

# Respond

Now that you have explored all the Scripture for this topic, spend some time recording the key things you want to remember.

Listen to some quiet music and spend time thinking about these questions:

*How do people know the boundaries that their personal freedom gives them?*

*How are freedom and responsibility linked?*

*How can people's perception of what their freedom allows conflict with the expectations of others?*

*Is it necessary for people to have religious belief to live their lives well: where might problems arise?*

*Our Big Question - How do rules bring freedom?*

With your family, take part in a worship, using the resources on the following slides to help you.



# FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

## "God's rules for living freely and responsibly - the Commandments"



### Gather:

Set up a prayer focus, you could add any of the following items or choose your own:

Cross

Candle

Bible (open at Exodus 20: 1 - 17)

Let us begin our prayer time together with the sign of the Cross : **In the name of the Father ...** and by lighting our candle to remind us that God is present in our gathering

People who want to live or work together make rules for themselves. The rules give them freedom to live as they wish, but at the same time, be responsible for the happiness of the whole group.

We have surely all wished, at one time or another that we could go through life without having to obey rules. "It would be great if I could just do as I want", we might say. But when we stop to think about it, if we had no rules to obey, then what some people want to do, might harm, or put at risk, others around them - and probably themselves as well. .

Rules are there to protect us all, and to make our lives more pleasant. Some of these rules that govern our lives can be seen here in school, and they ensure that we think of others, as well as of ourselves. They help us to behave more responsibly, and we are free to choose whether or not we obey them. However, we must accept the consequences if we choose not to obey.



# FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

## "God's rules for living freely and responsibly - the Commandments"

### Word:

We are now going to hear about some of the earliest rules which were written down; rules which were given to us by God himself, through his contact with the great Jewish leader, Moses. God chose Moses to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, but he soon discovered that, although they were all supposed to follow the Jewish religion, the Jews were a very quarrelsome group. They refused to do what Moses asked them to - so he sought God's help to give them rules, which would make them all to be free, but responsible for their actions, and would encourage them to be more considerate of others.

### *A reading from the Book of Exodus*

Moses climbed to the top of Mount Sinai. He remained on the mountain for a very long time, praying and talking with God. Then he returned to God's people and told them God's Laws - the Ten Commandments.

I am the Lord, your God. Love, serve and promise me to keep my name holy.

Keep my day holy.

Love and obey your parents and those who have charge of you.

Do not kill, and do not be angry or bad-tempered.

Respect and care for other people.

Do not steal, cheat or want things that don't belong to you.

Tell the truth and speak kindly of others.

Do all you can to care for others and make them happy.

Do all you can to care for other people's belongings.



**The Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God*

# FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

## “God's rules for living freely and responsibly - the Commandments”

### Response:

Those rules were so appropriate for living a more responsible life, that today they are still the basis for many of our own laws - and those of other countries too.

We all know that we are supposed to obey rules which are there to ensure that each of us lives our lives to the best of our ability. But we also know that at times we do not succeed. Examine your conscience for a moment and think of a time when you deliberately chose to break rules and weren't responsible in your actions.....

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrate God's love and mercy. We learn about the joys and challenges of living as a follower of Jesus in love and peace. During the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation the Church celebrates the love and mercy of God and calls people to confess their sins, ask for forgiveness and be reconciled to God and to one another. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Act of Contrition, also called the Prayer of Sorrow, is said. Let's say that prayer together now for all the times we didn't use our freedom responsibly and broke important rules for living...

**O my God, because you are so good,  
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you  
and with the help of your grace I will not sin again. Amen**



## FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

### “God's rules for living freely and responsibly - the Commandments”

#### **Mission:**

Pray the Act of Contrition every day to say sorry for the times during the day we haven't lived responsibly.

Before our final hymn,

#### **Final Prayer**

Let's pray together now, and ask God to help us to act responsibly as we accept the freedom of choice he has given us.

God our Father, you have given us freedom in our lives.

With this freedom we can bring sorrow or joy to ourselves and to others.

Help us always to use our freedom in a responsible way.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us all rejoice in the and responsibility which God has entrusted to us all

You could end by singing the hymn 'Freely Freely' together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo3MGpcBC5M>

