

A Note to Parents for Lesson 2

This week in our religious education classes we discussed the safe environment concept of keeping the sixth commandment. The sixth commandment, “**You shall not commit adultery**”, is obviously a rule for adults. In children’s terms, we translate God’s sixth commandment to:

- Show respect for marriage and family
- Show respect for our bodies and the bodies of others.

“...Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:19

At all grade levels we discussed how God created us and wants us to be safe. We stressed that as God’s creation, all human beings are deserving of dignity and respect. We made sure that the students understood that if someone tries to hurt their bodies in any way, they need to tell you or another trusted adult even if that person told them not to tell.

Please continue this conversation at home. Children and young people sometimes need help in determining the best way to stay safe. Continue to explain your family rules and help them to know that both you and Jesus want them to remain safe and happy.

“Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them.” John 13:17

If you need any help in beginning this conversation there are many resources available within your community or through the Diocese of Scranton website. For additional information go to: www.dioceseofscranton.org and click on Safe Environment.

The Ten Commandments for Children

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.
Put God before all things.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
Respect God’s name and holy things. Do not use bad language.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day.
Take part in the Mass on Sundays and holy days. Avoid unnecessary work on these days.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
Obey and show respect to parents and others who are responsible for you.
5. You shall not kill.
Do not hurt yourself or others. Take care of all life.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
Show respect for marriage and family. Respect your body and the bodies of others.
7. You shall not steal.
Respect creation and the things that belong to others. Do not cheat.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
Tell the truth. Do not gossip.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
Be faithful to family and friends. Do not be jealous.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.
Share what you have. Do not envy what other people have. Do not be greedy.