

Jesus' Law of Love

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 6**.

PAGE 45

John Baptiste Vianney was born in France in 1786. He became a priest and was known for his attentive listening. Many people came to him to celebrate Reconciliation. He is the patron saint of parish priests.

PAGE 48

God revealed his Law of love, also called the Torah, in the Old Testament.

PAGE 48

The main idea of Jesus' new commandment is that the Law we have received from God the Father calls us to love God and to love others.

PAGE 48

We follow Jesus' new commandment when we choose to love and serve others.

PAGE 49

The Holy Spirit helps us practice fortitude, the virtue that gives us the courage to follow Jesus even when doing so is difficult.

PAGE 49

In the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, we pray for others around the world. Praying for others is one way to follow Jesus' commandment of love.

PAGE 50

After he was ordained, Vincent de Paul lived and worked among people who were wealthy. After hearing the confession of a peasant, he became concerned about the needs of people who were poor and people who were ill.

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The Beatitudes

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 7**.

PAGE 56

In a Scripture passage from Matthew's Gospel called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his listeners how to live loving, peaceful, and happy lives. These teachings are called the Beatitudes.

PAGE 57

People who are poor in spirit know they can depend on God first.

PAGE 57

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

PAGE 57

The meek are people who are kind to others. They will inherit the land.

PAGE 57

The clean of heart are those who follow Jesus' example. They will see God.

PAGE 57

People who are righteous do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

PAGE 57

We can be peacemakers by getting along with others.

PAGE 57

People who are merciful forgive one another. When we exchange a sign of peace at Mass, we express that we are at peace with one another.

PAGE 58

Saint Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, a commonly known language at the time. Saint Jerome is often shown with a lion because of the legend that he removed a thorn from a lion's paw.

PAGE 59

Saint Francis of Assisi always tried to follow Jesus' example. He asked God to help him make peace in the world by being a peacemaker.

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Jesus Our Redeemer

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 8**.

PAGE 64

Jesus, Son of God, became man without losing his divinity. He was born in Bethlehem. When he was about 30 years old, he was moved by the Holy Spirit to heal people and preach about the Kingdom of God.

PAGE 64

Some people who did not believe in Jesus had him put to death on the Cross. Three days after his Crucifixion, Jesus appeared as the risen Christ to his disciples.

PAGE 64

On the day Jesus was put to death, two criminals were also on crosses. One criminal asked Jesus to remember him.

PAGE 65

Jesus freely died to free us from our sins. This is why we call him our Redeemer. Jesus knew that his act of *redemption*, or saving grace, was part of his Father's divine plan.

PAGE 65

Although Jesus was buried after he died, he did not remain in the tomb. He was raised from the dead by God the Father.

PAGE 66

After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent 40 days with his disciples, teaching them and sharing meals with them.

PAGE 66

At the end of the 40 days, Jesus was taken up into heaven. This is known as the Ascension and is described in the Acts of the Apostles.

PAGE 66

Jesus Christ lives in heaven and, through the Holy Spirit, shares his new life with us. We receive this new life in Baptism. At the end of time, Jesus will judge the living and the dead.

PAGE 67

A creed is a statement of faith. The Nicene Creed contains the central beliefs of the Christian faith and begins with the words "I believe in one God, the Father almighty."

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Jesus Sends the Spirit

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 9**.

PAGE 72

After Pentecost, Peter was one of the first to carry on Jesus' work. Peter met Aeneas, who had been confined to bed for eight years because he was paralyzed. Peter healed Aeneas in the name of Jesus Christ. When the people saw that Aeneas was healed, they turned to the Lord.

PAGE 72

We are called to carry on Jesus' work by helping people who are in need.

PAGE 73

The corporal works of mercy are ways we can care for people's physical needs.

PAGE 73

The corporal works of mercy are to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, provide clothing to people in need, visit people who are sick and imprisoned, give to people who are poor, and bury the dead.

PAGE 73

The spiritual works of mercy are ways we can care for people's spiritual and emotional needs.

PAGE 73

The spiritual works of mercy are to counsel, instruct, advise, comfort, forgive, show patience in difficult situations, and pray for others.

PAGE 74

Teresa of Calcutta followed Jesus' example by caring for people who were sick and people who were poor.

PAGE 76

The Holy Spirit leads Jesus' followers to do good works. We can pray to the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to care for others.

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Celebrating Advent

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 10**.

PAGE 79

The Church's liturgical year begins with Advent, a season of hope and waiting.

PAGE 79

During Advent, we get our churches, our homes, and our hearts ready to honor and celebrate Jesus' birth.

PAGE 79

Many years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah and other prophets told about how a child would bring God's peace to his people.

PAGE 79

There are four Sundays during the Advent season, which ends on Christmas Eve.

PAGE 80

During Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth by making good moral choices.

PAGE 81

The *Angelus* is a prayer of devotion that recalls the mystery of the Incarnation. It is prayed three times a day.

PAGE 81

The *Angelus* begins with the words that the angel used to greet Mary when he told her about becoming Jesus' mother.

PAGE 81

When we look around our church during Advent, we see a violet cloth draped on the altar. The priest wears violet vestments. On the third Sunday of Advent, his vestments may be rose.

PAGE 81

During Advent, we see an Advent wreath in our church. Each of the wreath's four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent.

PAGE 82

There are many different Advent traditions that help people prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. These traditions include Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, Jesse trees, Saint Nicholas Day celebrations, and *Las Posadas*.

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