

# Real+True

PILLAR II

UNIT 28 GUIDE

OVERVIEW

The Catechism is not a textbook, a collection of ideas, or a set of rules. Rather, the Catechism is the faithful echo of a God who wishes to reveal himself to us and desires us to respond. Our mission is to hand down and pass along the gift of our faith by creating beautiful, captivating, and relevant content inspired by the Catechism of the Catholic Church. And we are making this content in multiple languages and accessible for free to people all over the world.

The content, structure, and methodology of Real + True takes inspiration and direction from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and sound, evangelizing catechesis. Catechesis is inextricably intertwined with evangelization, and its primary aim is to put people into intimacy and communion with Jesus Christ. (Catechesi Tradendae, 5)

The word “catechesis” comes from the Greek word that means “to echo”. This simple guide is designed to help you understand the structure of our content and better use it to echo the teachings of Jesus yourself. The structure takes inspiration from the catechetical methodology, the pedagogy of the Catechism, and the pedagogy of God.

## THERE ARE FOUR PARTS TO THE CATECHISM. THE FOUR PARTS, OR PILLARS, ARE:

- The Profession of Faith (Pillar I)
- The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Pillar II)
- Life in Christ (Pillar III)
- Christian Prayer (Pillar IV)

Each pillar is divided into 12 units. In total, this project will include 48 units that will cover the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). Every month, a new unit will be published.

The twelve units for pillar three and the paragraphs of the catechism they cover are:

- UNIT 25** The Vocation to Beatitude and Dignity of the Human Person (1699-1729)
- UNIT 26** Freedom, morality, and conscience (1730-1802)
- UNIT 27** Sin, Virtues, and The Human Community (1803-1948)
- UNIT 28** Salvation: Sin, Law, and Grace (1949-2051)
- UNIT 29** The Commandments (2052-2082)
- UNIT 30** The Beatitudes (1716-1729)
- UNIT 31** Commandments 1-3 (2083-2195)
- UNIT 32** Commandment 4 (2196-2257)
- UNIT 33** Commandment 5 (2258-2330)
- UNIT 34** Commandment 6 and 9 (2331-2400, 2514-2533)
- UNIT 35** Commandment 7 and 10 (2401-2463, 2534-2557)
- UNIT 36** Commandment 8 (2464-2513)

## EACH UNIT THEN CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VIDEOS:

**Proclamation**

**Explanation**

**Connection**

There are a few characteristics of the Catechism's approach and structure that are worth mentioning. The Catechism is trinitarian, meaning we view all of the faith through the lens of the Trinity. The Catechism is also christocentric, meaning its focus or center is Jesus. The Catechism is kerygmatic, meaning it is animated by the saving message of Jesus Christ, the Good News. The Catechism has a missionary dimension, meaning it does not presume faith in those that would read it but seeks to evangelize through its presentation of the faith. And the Catechism is systematic, progressive, and organic, meaning the structure itself is a catechesis. The structure for each unit was developed using these characteristics and the Ecclesial Method, proposed by Msgr. Francis Kelley (author of *The Mystery We Proclaim*).

While each video is designed to be able to stand on its own, there is some benefit in watching them in order, and they do build on each other.

### Proclamation Video

The first video is meant to rouse the spiritual curiosity that allows us to be prepared to hear the Gospel message. These videos explore the world and our human experience, and the hope is that these videos will be especially attractive to those who might be less interested in a video that directly addresses the doctrines of the faith.

### Explanation Video

The second video breaks open the content of the passage of the Catechism being addressed in the unit. This video is much more straightforward and is guided by a discussion back and forth between two voices who are exploring the truths of the faith.

### Connection Video

The connection video is meant to be a real-life application of the passage from the Catechism, and answer common questions related to this unit's content. The tone of these videos are often playful, and it is meant to connect with the audience on a more practical level that is relevant to their lives.

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## UNIT 28: SALVATION: SIN, LAW, AND GRACE | CCC 1949-2051

THESIS: GOD SHOWS US THE PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION THROUGH THE LAW AND GIVES US GRACE TO RESPOND TO HIM IN LOVE.

### Proclamation Video: Are people inherently good or evil?

#### Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- Can you think of other examples from movies that illustrate the concept of “show, don’t tell”?
- The script mentions the use of symbols, motifs, and cultural references in movies. Can you think of other examples from films where symbolism is used to convey deeper meanings without explicit verbal communication?
- The distinction between “good guys” and “bad guys” is discussed, why do you think the blurring of lines between heroes and villains can sometimes be interesting? How does this relate to real life?
- Villains in movies often have compelling motives that make them more complex characters. How do you think this relates to the real life temptation to sin and evil?
- The script mentions the internal struggle of characters like Kylo Ren, Darth Vader, and Anakin Skywalker in Star Wars. How does the internal conflict of characters reflect the overall drama and complexity of choosing the right thing to do in a tough situation?
- In many films, a person’s identity is tied to whether they are perceived as a “good guy” or a “bad guy.” Can you discuss examples from movies where characters undergo moral transformations or conflicts that challenge the audience’s perception of their identity?
- The tension between being a “good” person and committing actions one may regret is highlighted. Can you think of real-life examples or personal experiences where individuals grapple with similar tensions in their own lives?
- The Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn quote suggests that the line between good and evil exists within every human being. How does this idea resonate with you, and do you agree that everyone has the capacity for both good and evil?

### Explanation Video: What is God’s plan for salvation?

#### Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- In the context of the gunslinger analogy, how do you relate the distinction between good and evil in Western films to the moral dilemmas you face in your own life?
- The video touches on the idea that our actions define whether we are good or evil. How does this influence your approach to making choices in your daily life?
- Reflecting on the statement that if a good person chooses an evil act, it might raise questions about their inherent goodness, how do you grapple with the complexity of human actions and the potential for moral mistakes?
- The video discusses the daily predicament of choosing between good and evil. Can you share a personal experience where you felt this struggle, and how it impacted your faith?
- The script touches on the challenges of following God’s law by our own strength, referring to the fall of Adam and Eve. How do you recognize the effects of original sin in your life, and how does it influence your reliance on God for help?

- The conversation introduces the concept of justification through Jesus' sacrifice. In what ways does understanding justification as an ongoing process affect your perception of God's forgiveness and your journey of transformation?
- The script emphasizes the role of grace in responding to God's invitation to become His adopted children. How do you actively seek and cooperate with God's grace in your life, especially in moments in which you are tempted to stumble and fall into sin?

## Connection Video: Does God expect us to be perfect?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What was something that struck you in the video?
- Edmund talks about the tension between trying to be perfect as Jesus instructed and the realization that it seems impossible. Have you ever struggled with this tension, and if so, how do you reconcile the call to perfection with the understanding that it's unattainable on our own?
- The script emphasizes our identity as sons and daughters of God. How does recognizing your identity in Christ influence the way you view yourself, especially in moments of failure or when you fall short of your own expectations?
- In discussing reactions to personal sin, the script mentions the temptation to give up and accept our flaws as part of who we are. Have you ever experienced this attitude? How can recognizing our need for Jesus as savior counteract the attitude to simply accept our shortcomings?
- The script suggests that trying harder to be perfect on our own can be a form of pride. How do you strike a balance between making efforts to live a holy life and relying on God's grace, without falling into the trap of self-reliance or self-condemnation?

# General Recommendations

## **FRIENDS AND FAMILIES:**

These videos are great discussion starters with coworkers, family members, and friends. You can easily share one over social media or by text. Say a prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you and guide you on who to send a video to. Follow up later by asking what they thought of the video and if there were any thoughts or questions it stirred up. Practice spiritual accompaniment by using active listening and refraining from correcting or teaching.

## **PARISH SETTINGS, SCHOOLS, YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY:**

These videos work great as a series for social media posts or email newsletters. Be sure to include a link for people to dive deeper into the rest of the content. In more formal catechetical settings, these videos are best used as supplemental discussion starters, or to recap a lesson. Try using these to open a lesson and dive right into reactions and discussion. For younger students, or those who are not active disciples, try the proclamation videos as a way into the content. For those who might be new or active disciples, try using the proclamation, explanation, and connection videos.

## **CATECHISTS:**

The Catechism's structure is itself a teaching. And the method and content of these videos is a great way to discuss with catechists how to effectively accomplish an "evangelizing catechesis". By watching the unit videos together while reading the Catechism paragraphs, you can then discuss with your catechists what they noticed about how the content is presented. What was highlighted, and what was left out? What does this video have to do with Jesus and our relationship with him? How is this video trying to lead people into a deeper curiosity and openness to the Catechism's content? The podcast episode of each unit often dives into this "behind the scenes" approach and can be useful for catechists and catechist training.

We hope and pray that these videos will find people who are curious about what the Church teaches and about Jesus. We pray that the proclamation videos rouse a spiritual curiosity about the world and what it means to be human. We pray the explanation and connection videos would present the contents of our faith in a way that is relevant to their lives, perhaps in a way they've never heard before. We hope that many may find these videos to be useful conversation starters to journey with others who are spiritually curious or seeking truth.

We also hope and pray that Real + True helps others rediscover the "pulsating heart of the catechism," as Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa stated in his sermon on the catechism to the papal household, a heart that has a face and a name – Jesus Christ.

Visit [realtrue.org](https://realtrue.org) for more videos and resources.