

Real+True

PILLAR III

UNIT 29 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.

Real+True

UNIT 29: THE COMMANDMENTS | CCC 2052-2082

THESIS: GOD DEFINED SIN, AND HOW WE CAN LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND ONE ANOTHER, THROUGH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Proclamation Video: How the Laws of Nature and Morality are Connected

Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- The script mentions that scientists attempt to describe reality in a way that is universal and accurate. How might this concept parallel or differ from the way we seek to understand and describe moral laws in our lives?
- The script introduces the idea that when seemingly settled laws of nature are contradicted, scientists either revise the law or revise the framework for understanding reality. What similarities or differences do you see in this approach compared to how people might approach morality and the Catholic faith?
- How can disagreements about what is “right” or “wrong” reveal a shared understanding of a moral law or rule of fair and decent behavior?
- The script raises the question of whether or not there is such a thing as an objective, universal moral law that is true for everyone. How do you think this concept aligns with Catholic teaching, and how might it influence our understanding of morality?
- The idea that moral laws imply a pre-existing framework for understanding what a human person is made for is presented in the video. How does the Catholic faith provide insights into the purpose or end of the human person, and why is this important for understanding moral laws?
- Discuss the analogy between the law of gravity implying a framework for understanding nature and moral laws implying a framework for understanding the human person. How does the Catholic Church contribute to shaping our frameworks, and what role does faith play in your own understanding of morality?
- The script ends with questions about the framework, nature, destination, and end of the human person. How can the teachings of the Catholic Church help us answer these questions and guide us in making moral decisions in our daily lives?

Explanation Video: The 10 Commandments: God’s Law of Love

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- The script mentions that what we don’t do can be just as important as what we do. How does this concept apply to our moral choices and actions?
- Natural law is described as God’s law written on our hearts, accessible through reason. How do you understand the relationship between natural law and our conscience, and how can we ensure our choices align with God’s plan for us?
- The script talks about God revealing the law to ensure everyone can know it clearly. How does this contribute to our understanding of right and wrong, and why do you think this is important?
- How do you think the 10 Commandments shaped the identity and behavior of the Israelites?
- The script mentions that sin contradicts our nature and wounds us. How can understanding

sin as contrary to our true nature influence our approach to repentance and seeking reconciliation with God?

- The script emphasizes that the 10 Commandments are an expression of natural law and are accessible to reason, but sinful humanity needed divine revelation for a complete understanding. How do you reconcile reason and Divine Revelation in your own understanding of morality?
- Jesus is portrayed as elevating the commandments and showing us how to love the way God loves. How does Jesus' new commandment to love one another as He has loved us change our understanding of the moral obligations outlined in the 10 Commandments?

Connection Video: Decoding the 10 Commandments

Discussion Questions:

- What was something that struck you in the video?
- The video discusses the challenge of following every rule in the Old Testament, including seemingly arbitrary laws. How do you relate to the idea that some laws may appear impractical or irrelevant in a modern context?
- The script mentions that following the 10 Commandments helps us avoid sin and evil while guiding us to choose the good. In your experience, how have the 10 Commandments influenced your moral decision-making as you've grown up?
- The video suggests that the Commandments not only state grave obligations but also imply obligations in lighter matters. How do you interpret this idea, and how does it impact your understanding of the 10 Commandments?
- Reflect on the saying, "When you see as God sees, you'll do as God says." How might a deeper reflection on the 10 Commandments help you see the world from God's perspective?
- The script delves into the implications of the fifth commandment, emphasizing the dignity of the human person. How does this perspective on the commandments broaden your understanding of morality beyond the obvious "Thou shall not murder"?
- The video uses the seventh commandment, "You shall not steal," as an example to discuss broader implications, including economic systems. How can understanding the commandments impact your participation in societal structures and other economic choices you make?

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 for more videos and resources.