

# Real+True

## PILLAR III

## UNIT 32 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:

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

## 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 32: COMMANDMENT 4 | CCC 2197-2257

THESIS: WE HONOR GOD WHEN WE HONOR OUR MOTHER AND FATHER.

### Proclamation Video: Why parents matter more than you think

#### Discussion Questions:

- What did you find particularly striking in the video?
- Reflecting on your own upbringing, how have your parents shaped your identity and worldview?
- The video argues that the parent-child relationship is the only one where someone both loves us unconditionally and also has direct authority over us. What else do you think makes this relationship so unique?
- In what ways do you believe attachment theory influences our understanding of parent-child relationships and their long-term impact?
- Can you identify any patterns or attachment styles from your own childhood experiences with your parents?
- What role do you believe parents play in fostering a child's sense of self-identity and self-esteem?
- Can you share any personal experiences or examples that illustrate the profound impact of the parent-child relationship on adult development?
- What are some practical ways we can honor and invest in our relationships with our parents throughout our lives?
- How does our understanding of the parent-child relationship align with Catholic teachings on family and human dignity?
- Do you think societal emphasis on external achievements sometimes undermines the importance of nurturing familial relationships?
- How can we prioritize family relationships amidst competing demands and pressures in modern society?

### Explanation Video: Why did God command us to honor our parents?

#### Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the video?
- How do you interpret the statement, "If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families,"?
- Reflecting on your own experiences, how has the concept of honoring parents evolved for you throughout different stages of your life?
- What role do you believe obedience to parental authority plays in honoring God's authority in your life?
- How do you reconcile the notion of honoring parents with instances where parental actions or decisions may be challenging?
- In what ways do you see the family unit reflecting the love and communion of the Holy Trinity?
- How can parents effectively cultivate an environment of unconditional love within their family despite imperfections and challenges?
- How do you view the concept of family as a "school of charity" in terms of nurturing personal growth and spiritual development? How might this be applied within a family with your own children?

## Connection Video: Rethinking parental authority and the Fourth Commandment

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What was something that struck you in the video?
- How do you perceive the evolving dynamics of parent-child relationships in today's society compared to previous generations?
- What role do you think societal norms and cultural shifts play in shaping the way adults interact with their parents?
- How has your own relationship with your parents evolved as you've grown older? What challenges have you encountered?
- How do you think the commandment to "honor your father and mother" impacts your own life?
- Have you ever experienced yourself or witnessed estrangement between adult children and their parents? What factors do you think contribute to such estrangement?
- In what ways do you believe social media and pop culture influence attitudes toward parental relationships among younger generations?
- How do you reconcile the idea of honoring parents with the concept of setting boundaries when necessary?
- How does the Catholic understanding of authority and obedience inform your approach to honoring your parents?
- Have you ever experienced a moment of personal growth or reconciliation in your relationship with your parents? What led to that experience?
- How do you balance the tension between asserting independence as an adult while still honoring parental authority and wisdom?
- Do you believe there are cultural or societal factors that contribute to differing perspectives on filial responsibility across generations?
- How does your faith influence the way you navigate challenges within your family relationships?
- How might the experiences shared in the video align with or challenge your understanding of family dynamics?

# 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.