

TOPIC: The Call to Love of Neighbor

<u>Main Concept:</u> Because of the long time that the Israelites had spent as slaves, they no longer knew fully how to be God's children. They struggled to love God and one another. In many ways they were an unruly society of people without any laws. The Israelites needed to be taught how to follow God, how to be His family. God's laws or commandments would bring order and freedom that were necessary if they were going to become a new nation, a holy nation that was special to God, a nation that was His own family!

God would start by teaching His children the basics of love. He would do this by giving them laws to follow based on the natural moral law. The laws or precepts of the natural law are ones that all people can understand if we use our reason (i.e., right reason).

Since, human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, destined to be His children, we have the ability to use reason to discern right and wrong, which is the basis for morality.

Your Family At-Home Mission is to:

Step 1: As a family, together, watch one or more of the videos below:

Older teens & tweens:

- <u>The Ten Commandments</u> | Catholic Central
- We Studied the Law in the Bible (Here's What We Found)

Younger children:

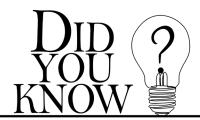
• The 10 Commandments Explained FOR KIDS! Spirit Juice

<u>Step 2:</u> Choose a special or holy item from your home that shows who your family is as children of God and that your family keeps the First Commandment by loving God who created us and loves us. What shows that God has first place in your family life?

Step 3: Bring that item or a picture of the item to share at the Week 3 gathering.

<u>Step 4:</u> Consider going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family to receive grace to live God's laws of love!

Step 5: Gather as a family around your home altar and thank God for loving your family by praying a decade of the Rosary.



St. Valentine's Day

While Valentine's Day in its secular form celebrates human love and often involves many sweets, it is good to remember that the day is named after a saint: Saint Valentine! Not much is known about St. Valentine. There are various stories and tales that have been passed along about his life and martyrdom. He was priest of Rome in the 3rd century who was martyred for his Christian faith. He died in witness to both love of God and love of neighbor. On Valentine's Day, ask for St. Valentine's intercession for you and your family, that you may love God and love those around you as he did. St. Valentine, pray for us!





