

Methodological suggestions:

- Reading, explaining, memorizing (repeating them repeatedly with the whole group of students or individually, filling in missing words in the text of the commandments, orally or in writing) of the commandments 5-10 of the Decalogue;

3. Write a moral teaching for each commandment:

A. Duties toward our neighbor:

5. Honor thy father and thy mother

6. Thou shalt not kill.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8. Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

10. Thou shalt covet nothing from thy neighbor.

B. Moral teachings:

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

- Give examples of actions that obey or disobey the commandments; (see the document with applicative moral stories!) We suggest the following procedure: the teacher describes the story, then asks the students to identify the characters from the story and to summarize their actions, then to match the actions of the characters to the known commandments, trying to identify if these are examples of obeying or disobeying the commandments; an action of a character can be identified as referring to one or more commandments of the Decalogue.

- Moral problems: Are the commandments necessary? Is it important to respect them? Discussion can be started from the following imaginary situation:

People in the village were sick of rules. Everything was prescribed: when they had to wake up, when they had to go to work, when it was Sunday and when workday. For students it was prescribed when school started, that they must use a handkerchief and that they had to brush their teeth at home. There were traffic rules, and rules for playing the piano.

There were indeed many rules and people decided that going forward these rules would no longer be valid. Everything seemed great. School, of course, was empty because all the children went to the swimming pool; people placed tables out in the street because that's where the sun was shining; the youngsters turned the volume on high on their boom-boxes and let them play loud music day and night. When George came out of the water, he did not find his pants anymore. Claudius has taken them: "There are no more rules," he shouted and ran away. Elena found little Maria in her room, the neighbor from the third floor, ready to break her doll. "What are you doing here, Maria?" "There are no more rules!" said the little girl and ran away with the doll. "I went to school," said Paul. "Do not lie to me!" cried his father. "There are no more rules, so I did not lie." When people wanted to sleep they could not because of the loud music. Many could not find their money, children slept wherever they wanted; the cars were honking on the street pointlessly.

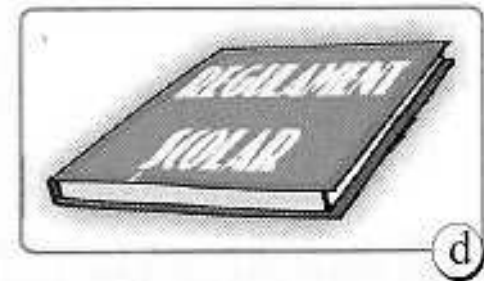
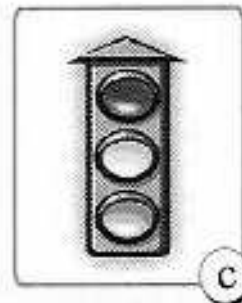
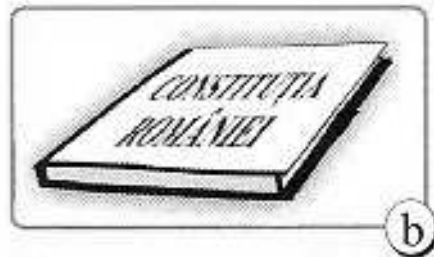
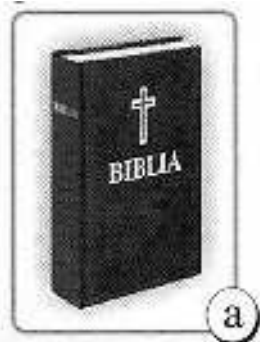
"Where are my children? Where is my money? Where are the policemen?" But no one would answer the police's phone. For if there were no rules, there was no need for anyone to defend them.

On that night the church bells began to ring. People gathered, and one said: "We cannot live like this any longer." "True, we cannot live like this" others agreed. "We need rules" cried one. "Yes, we want rules again" cried all.

They began to make rules again. Children had to obey their parents. Parents had to love their children. It was not allowed for people to hurt each other. It's not allowed to steal. Everyone must tell the truth." "We want these commandments" said all and walked peacefully to their homes.

(Adapted from Daniel Ciobanu, *"The Village without Rules"*)

- Under the direction of your teacher, organize together with your colleagues a discussion with the theme: *"Consequences of obeying/disobeying laws (rules) by the people"* In your discussion use the following images:



- Why is God commanding us that the first duty towards our neighbor should be *honoring our parents*?
- Who has the power over life and death? Argument your answer.
- What determines some people to disobey the sixth commandment?

- If you discover that someone tricked you, what do you do?

A. You forgive him. B. You punish him. C. You trick him back.

Which one of the solutions do you think it's according to God's will? Why?

- **Applicative exercises:**

1. Mention things you can do to show your parents that you honor them:

- You respect them: _____
- You pray for them: _____
- You follow their example: _____

2. By looking carefully at the images below, identify:

- The actions represented in them;
- The relationship between the represented actions;
- Cases when similar actions were discovered. What were the consequences? What solutions do you think are appropriate for solving the cases you have presented?



- Riddle: Who loves you, I wonder, / The most and the most / And teaches you, and cares for you, / And wants all the best for you?
- Meditations on wisdom words:
 - 'Are you suffering because of a mean man? Forgive him, so there won't be two mean people!' [St. Ambrose]
 - "God is hidden in His commandments. And those who look for Him find Him based on how they fulfill them." (St. Mark the Ascetic)

The Three Friends

It is said that a man was once accused of an act he had not done. To avoid punishment, someone had to testify that he was innocent. He went to see the three friends he had and asked them to come with him the second day in front of the judge so he would escape the punishment.

The next day, first one of his friends excused himself that he could not come anymore. The second one followed him till the court entrance, but then he changed his mind and turned away. The third friend, the one our man did not really count on, entered the court, testified for him and saved him, helping him regain freedom.

The same happens to each one of us. The three friends that we have in life and that could truly testify for us are our wealth, our relatives, and all the good deeds we've done. But, our achievements, no matter how impressive they are, remain on this world without being able to help us. Relatives follow us till the grave, but also remain in this world. Only our good deeds, the third friend, are the ones that follow us beyond death, showing God the truth about our soul. That is why the true value of a man is given by his good deeds.

4. Look carefully at the images below. After naming the characters, write short stories illustrating how they obey/disobey the last six of God's commandments.

