

## Methodological suggestions:

- give students a flyer with the 10 Commandments;
- Teacher and students read the commandments a few times, then, by asking questions, the teacher leads the students to identify what type of duties are indicated in each one of the commands (toward God or toward men) Example #1: 4<sup>th</sup> commandment: which day is meant for rest? Sunday, the day of the Resurrection... Who do we honor when we don't work on Sundays? We honor God, so this commandment is included in the category of duties to God. Example #2: the commandment "Do not steal!" From who? From people; respect toward our neighbor's goods; this is a duty toward men.
- For a better recollection, students should color the first four commandments in one color and the last six with a different color;
- teacher explains the idea that those who obey the commandments toward God will naturally feel the need to respect their peers, otherwise they would not completely fulfill God's will, and those who obey the commandments toward their neighbors indirectly also obey the God who gave them; there is interdependence between the two categories of commandments, and that is why God Himself has given us all commandments together;
- We suggest memorization exercises like the ones below:
  - reading and immediately repeating, out loud; the game "Talking stick": a commandment is said word by word by multiple students, as the "talking stick" travels from one to another;
  - Puzzle-type or fill in the blank exercises using the text of the 10 Commandments (individual or between teams);
  - Exercises to associate the number of a commandment with its content; to classify the commandment in one of the two categories;

## 2. Fill in the blanks with the correct information:

God has given people a number of \_\_\_\_\_ commandments through His chosen messenger, prophet \_\_\_\_\_ who was on Mount \_\_\_\_\_. These commandments are also known as \_\_\_\_\_. They were written on two tables of \_\_\_\_\_, also known as "\_\_\_\_\_".

The first four commandments outline the duties of men toward \_\_\_\_\_, and the next six outline the duties toward \_\_\_\_\_. These commandments are mandatory for all people who want to reach \_\_\_\_\_.

## Evaluation Test

1. Number the Ten Commandments in the order they were given on the "Tables of the Law". Put the same number next to the matching explanation:

- ☐ Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- ☐ Thou shalt not steal.
- ☐ Thou shalt not kill.
- ☐ I am the Lord thy God: thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- ☐ Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- ☐ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.
- ☐ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- ☐ Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.
- ☐ Honor thy father and thy mother.
- ☐ Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

- ☐ Do not wish to acquire something that does not belong to you.
- ☐ Do not worship the stars.
- ☐ Participate Sunday in the Holy Liturgy.
- ☐ Do not act disrespectfully in the church.
- ☐ Do not upset your parents and listen to them.
- ☐ Do not endanger someone's life.
- ☐ Dedicate your life to God.
- ☐ Do not worship man-made things.
- ☐ Do not talk badly about God.
- ☐ Love God the most.
- ☐ Work during the first six days of the week and celebrate the seventh day as a day of rest dedicated to God.
- ☐ Love and listen to your parents.
- ☐ Do not let anyone die from starvation.
- ☐ Do not look at indecent magazines or movies.
- ☐ Do not take anything that does not belong to you.
- ☐ Respect your body.
- ☐ Do not blame someone for an act he did not do.
- ☐ Do not lie.

- ☐ Return everything that you borrowed.
- ☐ Recognize your mistakes.
- ☐ Pray for your parents.
- ☐ Acknowledge that you are an Orthodox Christian.

2. Find fragments from the books you've read where some of the commandments are disobeyed. Together with your classmates organize a discussion keeping in mind the following questions:

- What commandments were disobeyed?
- Were the people disobeying the commandments punished? Why?
- How can the sins committed by these people be straightened up?
- How can you prevent someone from disobeying God's will? Give examples.

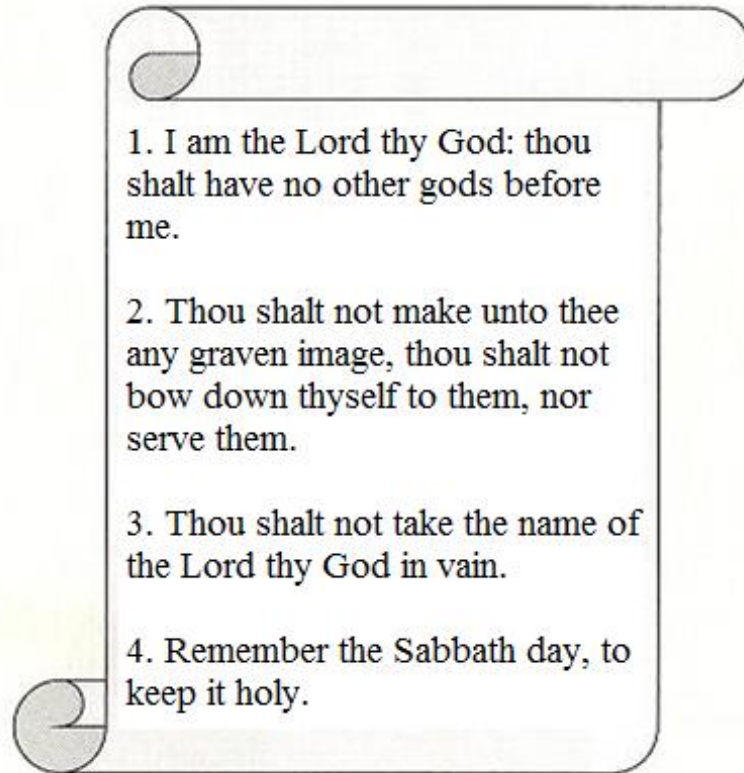
3. Game "*I start, you continue...*":

- All students imagine a story about a child who is accustomed to not listening to his parents.
- The story should be started by one student and continued successively by the other students.
- Every student should create a sentence showing the consequences of not listening to the parents (inside his family, between his friends, or at school).
- Give advice to this disobedient child to help him listen to his parents.

- Exercises to identify the moral teachings from the first 4 commandments (to be used while teaching the new concepts):

# 1. Write a moral teaching for each commandment.

## A. Duties to God



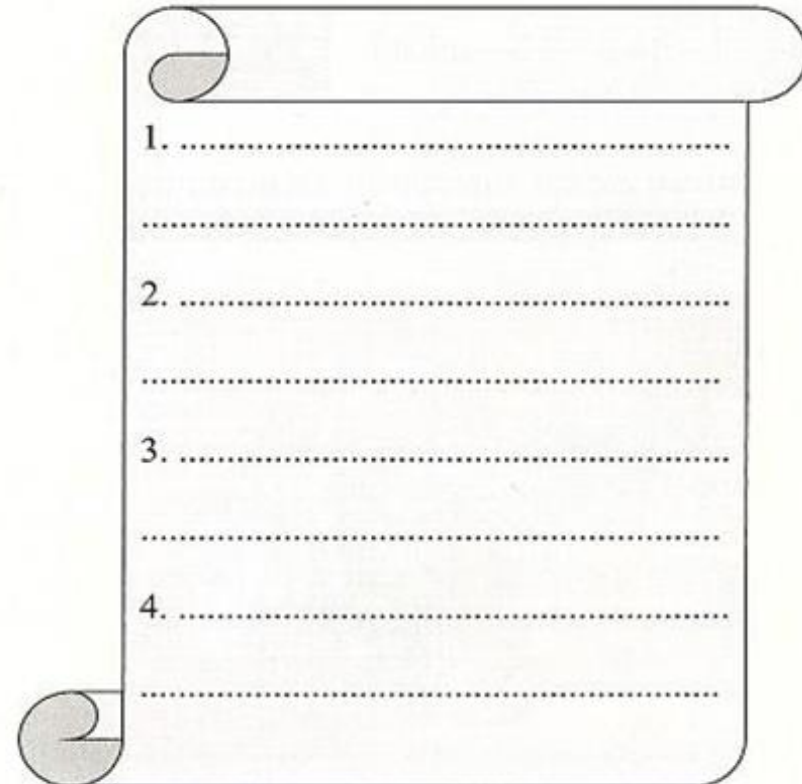
1. I am the Lord thy God: thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

## B. Moral teachings



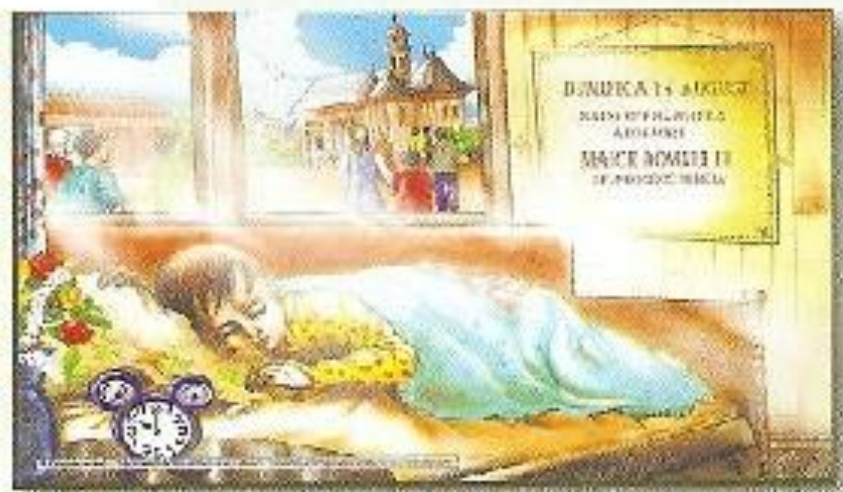
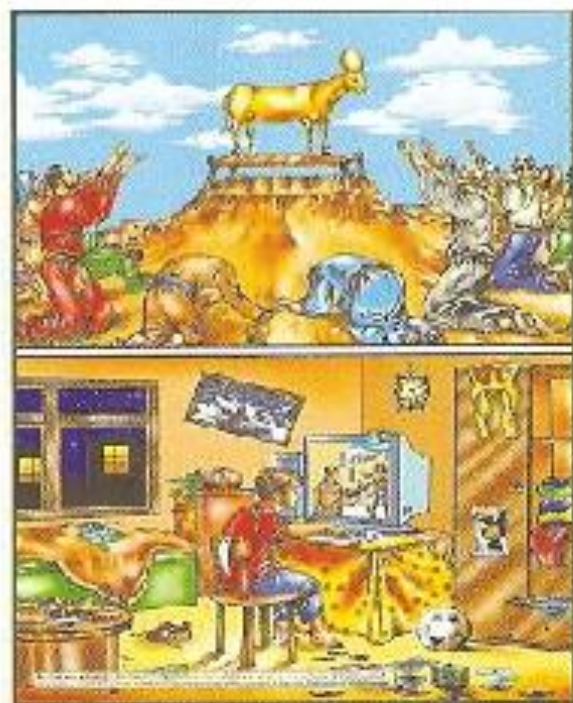
1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

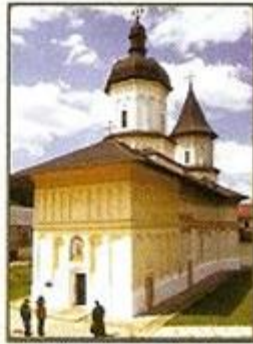
4. ....

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- Sample images for identifying acts of obeying/disobeying the first four of God's commandments;
- 5. Look carefully at the images below. After naming the characters, write short stories illustrating how they obey/disobey the first four of God's commandments.
- 6. Which ones of the first four commandments from the Decalogue do you find harder to accomplish? Why?



4. Identify the divine commandments obeyed/disobeyed in the situations described below:

a) It's Sunday morning. Victor and his brother are heading with hurried steps toward the church. At the same time, Sorin and his friends are playing soccer on the field behind their apartment building.



b) Since he has become a business owner, Mihai's dad does not go to church anymore. Day and night he only worries how to gather more wealth.



c) While Moses was gone on Mount Sinai to talk to God, the Israelites had gathered gold and made it into a golden calf whom they worshiped like a true god.



d) Dan and Alin are classmates. On their way to school they pass by a crucifix. While Alin is reverently crossing himself, Dan laughs and imitates Alin, mocking him.



- Exercises for identifying acts pleasing to God done on Sunday;

- give the students a number of index cards naming various actions (good or bad, reverent or not), the students pick them up randomly, read aloud what is written on them, and answer if this is or not a good deed to be done on Sunday;

- or: the teacher presents various actions to small teams of students (2-3 kids) and writes on the board, organized in two columns, their answers, obtaining at the end an inventory of good, loving, and reverent deeds expected by God from us on Sunday. This inventory can then be used for generalization;

-or: the teacher counts the correct answers for each team and in the end announces the winning team;

-sample actions: to wash, to iron clothes, to go to church, to visit a sick person, to get dressed, to read the Bible, to pray, to play, to dance, to fix something, to write, etc.

- Note: some actions are debatable, that is why the teacher needs to introduce the following criteria: if it's made for the glory of God, then it's good to be done on Sunday;

-or: students can identify the actions through which they obey the commandments toward God in a graphical form, like the one below:

1. Cross out the boxes that do not match the affirmation written in the middle:

