

Catholic Diocese of Wilmington/PCAD
Keeping Our Promises Curriculum 2019

Opening and Closing Script
All Parish Grade Levels:

“THE GREAT COMMANDMENT TEACHES US TO LOVE” OPTION¹

OPENING SCRIPT:

Welcome:

- Hi! I am here today to talk to you about how much God loves us and wants us to be our best selves and live our best lives.
- You may have already heard some of the things we are going to talk about at a presentation in your school. Today, we are very lucky that we can talk specifically about being safe and smart in the context of our Catholic faith, because God loves each and every one of us very much, wants all of us to be safe, and to make good choices.
- We are going to open with a reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew. We will then pray together our opening prayer. Let us remember that gathered together here we are in God’s presence. We shall begin, as we do all things, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*See Appendix A (page 3) to read the Bible Passage and Opening Prayer
and then continue:*

- Look around, each one of us is different. Even twins are different from one another. For example, they have different fingerprints.
- How do we connect with each other, understand each other, and live in love with each other?
- We are called to respect and to love all of creation – this includes ourselves and all of those around us because God wants all of us to know that we are loved.
- In the Great Commandment, Jesus teaches us that we are to love God with everything in us—our heart, our soul, and our mind. Can you show me where your heart is? *[Let them show you and affirm them.]* Can you show me where your soul is? *[Allow for ideas to be presented, and then take your hands from above your head and swoosh them down, and say “our souls are connected to all of us”.]* Can you show me where your mind is? *[Let them show you and affirm them.]* So God wants all of us to enter into love with Him.
- Jesus also teaches us that we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. So, in order to do that, it is important to understand what is meant by loving ourselves.

¹You may choose to open your presentation with EITHER “The Great Commandment Teaches Us to Love” Option OR “The Trinity Models Relationship” Option.

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- How can you love yourself? Loving ourselves is about taking care of ourselves. And, how do we do that? [*Accept answers. Be sure to include the following: Eating properly, staying clean, getting enough sleep, exercising, and asking for help.*]
- So we could say that loving ourselves is not about thinking that we are better than anyone else. It is more about remembering to do the right thing for our health and happiness.
- *Sometimes* it is hard to remember to love ourselves the way Jesus asks us to because, *well*, we mess up; and sometimes it is hard to love and respect everyone because *people do things that are mean and hurtful*.
- God sent His Son, Jesus, to teach us how to be loving even when others are not.
- God wants us to love and to be loved, but God gave us free will to make choices.
- *So*, we have to be smart about our relationships with others, and we have to know how to protect ourselves and others from people who choose to hurt people instead of love people.
- Like I said, you may have heard and talked about some of these things at school. We are talking about them here today because *here* we can talk about God's love for us, and how we are created to be in healthy, loving relationships with others.

*Continue to follow the scripts according to grade level.
At the conclusion of the script, close with the following prayer:*

CLOSING PRAYER:

We close this session with prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for our time together. Help us to continue to learn the ways to stay safe and healthy from our families, catechists, and teachers. Help us to be kind to others and to love and pray like you. Together, let us pray the prayer you taught us.

Our Father...

Amen.

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APPENDIX A

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a teacher of the law] tested [Jesus] by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”²

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

OPENING PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, you created us all in your image and likeness to love you and to love our neighbor as ourselves. You gave us Jesus, your only Son, to show us how to love and the Holy Spirit to help us experience the truth of your goodness. We thank you always for being in our presence. Bless our time together and help us to seek your goodness in all we do. **Amen.**

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² New American Bible (rev. ed. 2011), Matthew 22:34-40.