



Parent Resource Packet – Middle School (Gr. 6-8)

1) Please use the **attached parent letters** to discuss topics with your child that we cover in religious education. These letters let you know what we learned that day. Also **see below the calendar** that lets you know what we covered on which day. Print this packet or pick up a hard copy after one of the Weekend Masses.

2) Parent Life Website

We are excited to reveal our new and innovative Parent Life Website to further support your ministry by helping the parents and families. As subscribers of Life Teen and Edge parishes have access to this impactful platform, as long as the parishes remain subscribed. Get ready to bring your ministry to the next level by providing an avenue of encouragement and inspiration to all the parents of the teens that you serve.

Here is how to get started:

1. Go to our [registration page](https://ltparentlife.com) for ltparentlife.com.
2. Fill in your Parish Code – fabian39402 All lowercase letters
3. Enter the rest of your information and create a unique username and password to login.



Edge Theme Calendar Fall 2018

DATE	LESSON THEME
9/5	Beginning of the Year Gathering – Parents & Students
9/12 <i>Sun. 9/16</i>	Color Run – A Social Kickoff Night <i>Sunday 9/16 – Catechetical Sunday @ 10am Mass</i>
9/19	Thou Shall Not Have Fun - An Edge Social Night
9/26	Live Free- An Edge Night on the Ten Commandments <i>*Safe Environments*</i>
10/3	Be Chosen – An Edge Night on the First Commandment
10/10	No CCD- Fall Break
10/17	Be Named – An Edge Night on the Second Commandment
10/24	Abide – An Edge Night on the Third Commandment
10/31	No CCD – Halloween
11/7	Be Rooted – An Edge Night on the Fifth Commandment
11/14	Prayer for Your Enemies – An Edge Night on the Conversion of Heart
11/21	No CCD – Thanksgiving Break
11/28	Beach Ball Bonanza – An Edge Social Night
12/5	Created Woman Created Man – Femininity / Masculinity
12/12	Strong and Brave- An Edge Night on Female Saints Called to Protect – An Edge Night on Male Saints and Blesseds
12/19-1/2	No CCD - Christmas Break

Students are encouraged to stay After Life Teen for a Meal & Youth Group Activities, 7-8:15p.m.

THOUGH SHALL NOT HAVE FUN

An Edge Social Night

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your child played a game where he or she was given silly commands to follow. The teaching taught the youth, briefly, about the importance of boundaries and how the Ten Commandments actually give us more freedom. Your son or daughter then played a game with no rules, discussed why it is important to have rules, and then came back to play a game with rules given by the 8th grade youth. The Edge Night ended with a game to inspire the youth to find freedom in Christ, a challenge to continue to come to Edge to learn how to find true freedom, and a group prayer.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- God gives us boundaries and guidelines in our lives, not to keep us from having fun, but to keep us safe, healthy, and happy.
- The Ten Commandments act as a boundary that keeps us safe.
- God's rules are not there to ruin all the fun, but rather to protect us so we can live freely.

Catechism Reference:

"The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to 'the slavery of sin.'" (CCC 1733)

Scripture Reference:

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What are some rules that we have set in place for our family? *Explain to the youth why those rules are in place and how they are there for their protection.*
- What are some boundaries that we have in place as a family that you think are unfair? Why?
- What are some boundaries in our Catholic faith that you do not understand?
- How do God's rules, and our family rules, help us to live better lives?

LIVE FREE

An Edge Night on the Ten Commandments

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your child got to experience an escape room where his or her small group completed a series of challenges to “escape” their assigned spaces and earn prizes. The teaching shared how God gave Moses and the Israelites the Ten Commandments, explaining that they are steps toward true freedom and love and are relevant to us today. The youth then discussed the teaching in small groups, and created paper hearts to be used for the end of the Edge Night. At the end of the Edge Night, your son or daughter used the paper heart to reflect on the commandment he or she hopes to better follow.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- The Ten Commandments came directly from God, not as punishments but as steps toward true freedom.
- Christ and the Church reaffirm that living out the Ten Commandments is the best way to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves.
- Because the Ten Commandments speak to deep moral truths, they can never be outdated or irrelevant.

Catechism Reference:

“The word ‘Decalogue’ means literally ‘ten words.’ God revealed these ‘ten words’ to his people on the holy mountain. They were written ‘with the finger of God,’ unlike the other commandments written by Moses. They are pre-eminently the words of God. They are handed on to us in the books of *Exodus* and *Deuteronomy*. Beginning with the Old Testament, the sacred books refer to the ‘ten words,’ but it is in the New Covenant in Jesus Christ that their full meaning will be revealed.” (CCC 2056)

Scripture Reference:

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,’ and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10)

Family Reflection Questions:

- Why are the Ten Commandments so important?
- How do the Ten Commandments help us to follow God?
- What commandment did you want to work on following this week?

BE CHOSEN

An Edge Night on the First Commandment

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter played a game where his or her small group had to choose their dream team to complete a certain task. The teaching explained to the youth that they are God's chosen people and they are called to live out the first commandment. The youth then reflected on a Scripture passage and the things that they put above God in their lives. At the end of the Edge Night, your child learned about blessings and had an opportunity to bless himself or herself with holy water.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- The first commandment summons humankind to believe in God, to hope in Him, and to love Him above all else. (CCC 2134)
- We are called to respond to God's invitation in how we adore, pray, sacrifice, and make promises to Him.
- We were created to worship, so if we do not respond to God, we will worship something or someone else.

Catechism Reference:

"The first commandment forbids honoring gods other than the one Lord who has revealed himself to his people. It proscribes superstition and irreligion. Superstition in some sense represents a perverse excess of religion; irreligion is the vice contrary by defect to the virtue of religion." (CCC 2110)

Scripture Reference:

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

Family Reflection Questions:

- Why is it so important to put God first in your life?
- What are some things that you feel like get put before God in your day to day life? What about in our family life?
- Do you feel like God is first and at the center of our family? Why or why not?

BE NAMED

An Edge Night on the Second Commandment

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your child played a fun game where he or she had to guess the meaning of different names. The teaching taught the youth about the second commandment by looking at how God's name should be used. Afterward, the youth had a short discussion about the teaching and then they created posters with different names of God. At the end of the Edge Night, the youth began practicing adoration of God's name by proclaiming praise out loud with the large group.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- The second commandment tells us not to use the Lord's name in vain. When we use God's name in vain, we are belittling God and putting ourselves higher than Him, disregarding the true nature and holiness of God.
- The name of God should always be used reverently and respectfully. We should never use His name lightly, without thinking, or for any purpose other than to praise and adore Him.
- Our names also have great significance. This means we should respect our names, respect the names of others, and continually grow in holiness.

Catechism Reference:

"Among all the words of Revelation, there is one which is unique: the revealed name of God. God confides his name to those who believe in him; he reveals himself to them in his personal mystery. The gift of a name belongs to the order of trust and intimacy. 'The Lord's name is holy.' For this reason man must not abuse it. He must keep it in mind in silent, loving adoration. He will not introduce it into his own speech except to bless, praise, and glorify it." (CCC 2143)

Scripture Reference:

"Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." (Matthew 5:33-37)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What is the meaning of your name? Why are names so important?
- Why is it so important that we show respect to the name of God?
- As a family, are there any bad words or sayings we let slip that we should not?
- Are there certain TV shows or movies that you watch that use bad language? How do you think this affects you and the words you use?

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter played a high-energy activity that alternated crazy commands with short periods of rest. The teaching focused on the origins of the Sabbath and how it applies to our lives today. After the teaching, the small groups brainstormed ways to keep Sundays holy and focused on the Lord. The Edge Night ended with a time of silent reflection on the Word of God.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- The Sabbath finds its origin in God Himself who rested after creation.
- We are called to keep the Sabbath holy, first and foremost by our participation in the Sunday Eucharist.
- Our rhythm of life on Sunday should look different than the other days of the week.

Catechism Reference:

“God’s action is the model for human action. If God ‘rested and was refreshed’ on the seventh day, man too ought to ‘rest’ and should let others, especially the poor, ‘be refreshed.’ The sabbath brings everyday work to a halt and provides a respite. It is a day of protest against the servitude of work and the worship of money.” (CCC 2172)

Scripture Reference:

“And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.” (Genesis 2:2-3)

Family Reflection Questions:

- Why is Sunday called the Sabbath day? What is so important about this day?
- As a family, do our Sundays feel like a day of rest? Why or why not?
- How can we make our Sundays more restful and more focused on God? What is one change you would like to make?

BE ROOTED

An Edge Night on the Fourth Commandment

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter played a game that challenged the youth to finish a storyline that has an authority figure who leaves the scene as well as to come up with a skit to show what would happen. The teaching explained to the youth how the fourth commandment shows us the importance of honoring and respecting not only their parents, or guardians, but also all those who have been given authority. After the teaching, the youth had an opportunity to write an apology letter to a person in authority in their life who they disrespected or did not honor. At the end of the Edge Night, the youth learned about intercessory prayer and had an opportunity to pray a decade of the rosary for different authority figures.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- God knows that in order for humanity to function properly we need leaders, we need direction, and we need authority figures to help guide us in various activities and help bring order to our lives.
- The first place that God calls us to show respect for authority is in our own families by honoring our parents, or those who have been put in charge of raising us, and respecting them.
- This commandment also extends to showing respect for all of those who have been given a place of authority. We should all work with those in authority to make our communities and countries a better place. (CCC 2234, 2238-2241)

Catechism Reference:

“The fourth commandment opens the second table of the Decalogue. It shows us the order of charity. God has willed that, after him, we should honor our parents to whom we owe life and who have handed on to us the knowledge of God. We are obliged to honor and respect all those whom God, for our good, has vested with his authority.” (CCC 2197)

Scripture Reference:

“And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:51-52)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What are some examples of people in your life who have authority?
- Why is it important to follow the rules and instruction of your parents, guardians, or the people who are in places of authority?
- What do you think our society, family, or community would look like if no one respected or followed authority?
- Why do you think God asks you to be obedient to your parents, or guardian, as one of the commandments?

PROTECT LIFE

An Edge Night on the Fifth Commandment

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your child played a game where he or she was challenged to protect a fragile egg from attackers and to get it from one side of the room to the other. The teaching discussed the fifth commandment, “thou shall not kill,” and taught the youth about how this commandment protects human life at all stages. The youth then used an activity in small groups that helped them to understand the importance of self-care and how that is a part of the fifth commandment. The Edge Night ended with an opportunity for the youth to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives and for their own life.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- Human life is sacred because it is a gift from God. Every human life is important and that is why God gives us the fifth commandment, “thou shall not kill.”
- The presence of anger and hatred, while they are feelings, often leads to violence and destruction — that is why in addition to the commandment to not kill, Jesus adds to it that we should not live in anger, hatred, or vengeance. (CCC 2259-2262)
- Our life and our physical health are gifts from God, and we must take care of ourselves. (CCC 2288)

Catechism Reference:

“Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being.” (CCC 2258)

Scripture Reference:

“... ‘and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What does it mean to protect human life at all stages?
- What are some practical ways in your life that you can work to protect human life?
- What does Jesus say about anger? How does it relate to this commandment?
- How can we work as a family to help different organizations that protect human life?

PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES

An Edge Issue Night on Conversion of Heart

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This week at Edge, your son or daughter did a relay race that represented changing hearts of stone to hearts filled with love. The teaching outlined how in a world filled with so much conflict, we are called to have no fear, to pray for our enemies, and to desire the conversion of hearts back to God. The youth then had an opportunity to pray for their enemies and to reflect on times in their own lives when they may have been someone's enemy. The end of the Edge Night provided the youth with an opportunity to review everything they learned this semester.

For more support in your journey as a parent be sure to check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com!

Main Ideas:

- When we are faced with war and terrorism, and even smaller scale conflicts in our schools or towns, we must remember that God is bigger than all of the bad things that are happening. He is still a good God in the midst of all the suffering.
- Jesus Christ prayed for all those who had tortured Him and crucified Him from the cross before He died, saying, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). He calls us, too, to pray for our enemies.
- God asks us to have a heart like His that loves the sinner and desires the conversion of everyone, that all would turn away from their sins and back to God.

Catechism Reference:

"Sin is present in human history; any attempt to ignore it or to give this dark reality other names would be futile. To try to understand what sin is, one must first recognize *the profound relation of man to God*, for only in this relationship is the evil of sin unmasked in its true identity as humanity's rejection of God and opposition to him, even as it continues to weigh heavy on human life and history." (CCC 386)

Scripture Reference:

"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:44-45)

Family Reflection Questions:

- Who are some people you would consider to be enemies?
- Why does Jesus ask us to pray for these people?
- Do you think it will be easy or hard for you to pray for your enemies? Why or why not?
- What does it mean that we desire for people to have conversions of heart?
- Is there someone in our family that you think we need to pray for to have a conversion of heart?