# The Way of Holiness

GRADE 8

## CHAPTER 20 Study Guide

*Keep these ideas in mind as you study* ***Chapter 20****.*

By living out their covenant, the Israelites witnessed to the world that they were the people of the Lord.

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The early Christians were a people of the covenant. They lived a pattern of life that they called "the Way." This meant that they followed Christ, who said, "I am the way." (John 14:6) We entered into a covenant with God at Baptism. Like the Israelites and the early Christians, we try to show love for God and for one another. We try to show this love through the Eucharist and by living like Jesus.

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"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13:34) is the new commandment that Jesus gave his followers. In addition to keeping the Ten Commandments, we must keep Jesus' new commandment if we are to inherit eternal life.

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The Ten Commandments reflect the natural law written in our hearts as a result of being made in God's image. Natural law forms the basis of our rights and duties.

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Vice is an obstacle to Christian happiness and growth in Christ. It is a habit or tendency toward evil. Seven of the vices are called the Capital Sins or deadly sins. They can kill the life of God within us. They are *pride*, *avarice*, *lust*, *wrath (anger)*, *gluttony*, *envy*, and *sloth*.

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A virtue is a habit or tendency that helps you do what is morally good. Although virtue is a gift from God, it must be developed through practice until it becomes easy to do.

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Humility is a virtue that leads you to have a truthful opinion of yourself. You give credit to God for your success and talents and express this attitude through prayer. Diligence helps you work hard and devote the time needed for any task. It leads you to faithfulness and the joy of persevering to the end. Other virtues are *generosity*, *chastity*, *meekness*, *temperance*, and *love of others*.

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For an act to be morally good, these three elements must be good: the act itself, the intention, and the circumstances.

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