

Ages 11-14: Ten Commandments Origami

Materials Needed

3 copies of *Origami Template* printed on 3 different colors of paper for each student, copies of *Origami Folding 1 & 2* for students to share, pencils or pens; scissors

Prepare in Advance

Print the *Origami Template* page on different colors of paper. Print the *Origami Folding* pages. Gather other supplies. You may wish to make a sample of the Ten Commandments Origami to be certain you understand the folding directions.

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

"Keeping the covenant" means to live according to the commandments. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8767

"The natural degree of life regarded in itself loves only self and the world, for it clings to the bodily senses and these occupy a prominent place in the world; but the spiritual degree of life regarded in itself loves the Lord and heaven, and also itself and the world, but God and heaven as higher, principal and ruling, and itself and the world as lower, instrumental and serving." *Divine Providence* 324

When we break one commandment we compromise them all in ourselves. If we work on one commandment we strengthen them all. In this activity, students will identify pairs of commandments for which they can see links: e.g. if we *steal*, we will probably *lie* to cover it up. If we *covet* someone's reputation, we may look for ways to *kill* it. Students will construct a hexahedron (a six-sided figure) to show how the commandments are connected.



1. Do you think it is possible to break just one of the commandments without breaking any of the others? Why or why not?
2. What is likely to happen if you steal something and then are asked what happened to it? If you really covet something someone else has, what kinds of things are you more likely to do?
3. Can you think of other connections? Which commandments are especially linked together? Brainstorm a list with the students. Examples are steal & lie, covet & steal, murder & lie, etc.
4. Hand out the templates and instructions and have students fold and assemble their origami hexahedrons.
5. Demonstrate that if you put too much pressure on one of the commandments, the entire hexahedron will collapse. If the commandment is restored, all of the commandments are bonded together, whole and strong once again.



6. Breaking one commandment often leads to breaking others. The good news is that the opposite is also true! Keeping one commandment helps us to keep the others. If we work hard not to lie, we are also less likely to steal or murder because we know it is likely that we would have to lie about it. Can you think of some other examples where keeping one commandment strengthens another?
7. It is important to remember that the power to keep the commandments comes from the Lord alone. Everything good we do comes from Him.

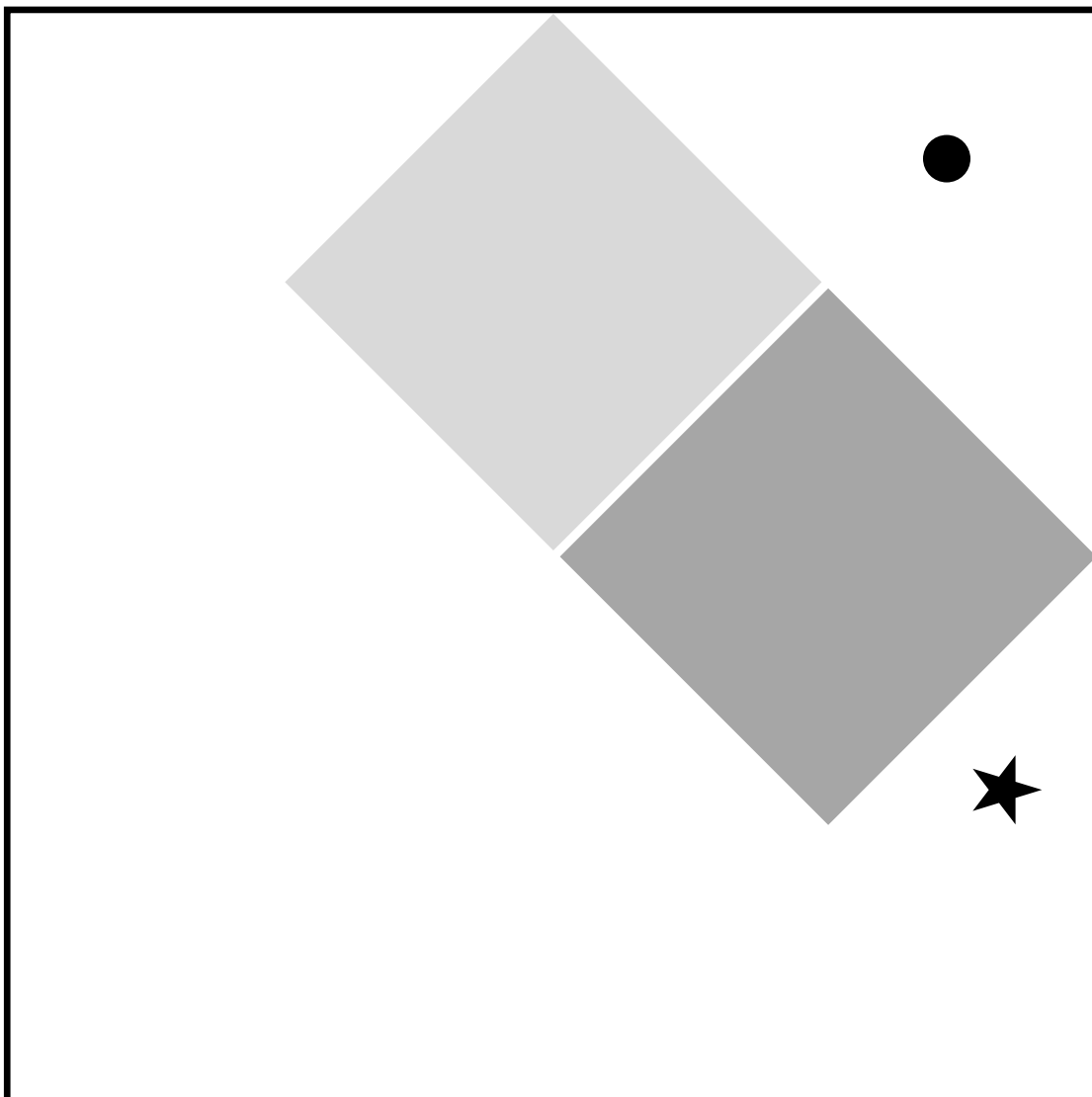
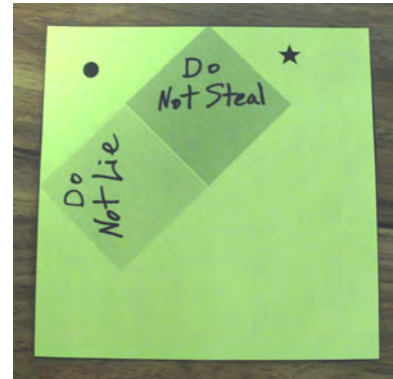
New Church Concept

Teacher Background

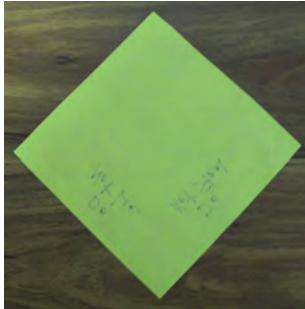
A person who acts deliberately and from conviction against one commandment acts against the rest as well. This is because acting deliberately and from conviction is utterly denying that it is a sin, and if anyone else says it is, such a person will dismisses this opinion as worthless. If anyone thus denies and dismisses sin, they pay no heed to anything which is called a sin. See *True Christian Religion* 523

1. Carefully cut out the square below. You will need three squares in total.
3. Choose one of the commandments and write a shortened version of it in the shaded square.

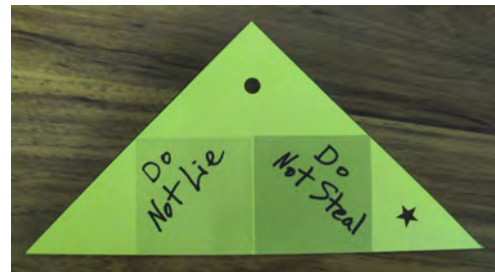
2. Place the square in front of you with the circle in the upper right corner.
4. Rotate the square 1/4 turn. Write another commandment in the other shaded square.



1. Place the square in front of you, blank side up, but with the circle in the corner closest to you.



2. Fold the square in half from one corner to its opposite (catty-cornered).



3. Unfold the square. Repeat steps 1 & 2, except with the star closest to you. Then unfold the square again.



4. Place the square face down with the circle closest to you. Fold the bottom corner up 1/2 way to the center point.



5. Fold the bottom flap up, hiding the circle, to create a triangle as shown below.



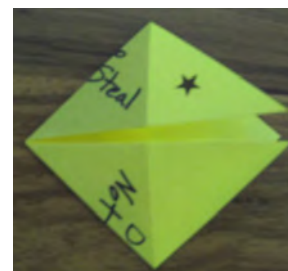
6. Flip your triangle over so that the writing is face down with the folded edge closest to you.



7. Fold one of the bottom corners of the triangle up to the top center point. (This folds your written commandment.)



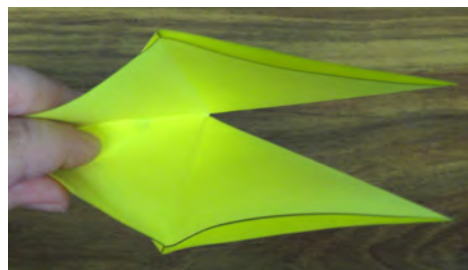
8. Repeat step 7 with the other corner. Then rotate your square to that the star is in the upper right corner.



9. Fold the square in half, hiding the star.



10. Loosen the last fold and pull the two flaps out. Then re-crease the central fold.



11. Repeat steps 1-10 with two more squares. Each piece will have a pocket and two flaps.



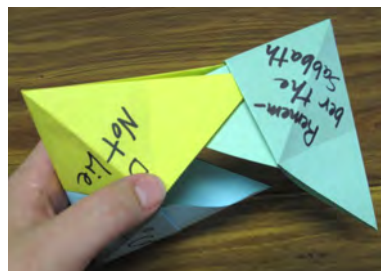
12. Place two of the triangles in front of you as shown. Notice where the stars are!



13. Insert the flaps of the second piece into the pocket of the first piece. Push them all the way together.



14. Insert the flaps of the first piece into the pocket of your third square and push them 1/2 way down.



15. Curve the flaps of the third piece over and insert them into the pocket of the second piece.



16. Push the pieces together and you are done!

