

Topic: Our Eternal Destiny

Family Small Group for Confirmation Week (March 13th, 2022)

Parent Resources

These resources are used in the lesson in some way. Parents, consider reading them before doing the lesson with your student. Otherwise, read them within the lesson with your student when directed to do so.

Catechism Readings: Chapter 13
The Meaning of Christian Death pg. 153-155
The Last Judgment pg. 156-157

Life Teen Resources:
Article: [Purgatory: Heaven's Waiting Room](#)

1. Opening Prayer (read together)

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
*For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.*
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Note: italicized words were those left out during our previous Sanctuary lesson

2. Personal Connection

Parents- Reflect on then discuss the following:

How has knowledge of Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell shaped your decision making in life?

After sharing, ask your student:

Do you believe in Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory?
Why? How does that knowledge shape your faith?

3. Activity

Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory Game

(You may want to read the instructions and explanation before setting up and starting the game.)

Materials: 1 ball/person, tape/string or other way of marking a goal

Setup: Mark a goal on the ground quite a ways from the starting line. You may also put some obstacles in the area around the goal.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Each person gets a ball and lines up at the starting line side by side.
- Each person throws his or her ball from the starting line.
- Each person runs to their ball and can move their ball only by using their nose or blowing their ball to the goal.
- First person who gets the ball into the goal wins. Keep playing until all the balls are in the goal.
- Now read the explanation of the activity below.

EXPLANATION:

- The ball symbolizes your soul. The goal is Heaven. The space around the goal up to the starting line is Purgatory. The space behind the starting line is Hell. The initial throw off is our lives. Nosing or blowing the ball is in the afterlife.
- If you choose to disobey God and throw your life in the direction you choose...if in your life you choose to throw your soul toward Hell, there's no bringing it back in the afterlife. Hell is forever and eternal. (You can't get the ball back if you go against the suggested rules and throw it backward.)
- In life we must try our very best and aim the best that we can toward Heaven so that our "time" in Purgatory isn't as rough.
- If we make it to Purgatory, we'll eventually make it to Heaven.
- It's much easier to stay on the right path and make use of the sacraments while we are here on earth than to go through the cleansing of Purgatory.

OPTIONAL SETUP: You can make the goal slightly raised so that the ball will not stay by itself and make the following point.

- We can not earn Heaven on our own. We require God's grace and mercy just as the ball requires a hand to keep it on spot.

4. Discussion Questions (writing down answers prior to discussion may encourage deeper conversations)

1. After reading "The Meaning of Christian Death" (Catechism for Adults pg. 153-155), fill in the following blanks: "The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to the final _____ of the elect, which is entirely different from the _____ of the damned" (154).
2. In your own words, what is the difference between Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory?
3. Fr. Tilley emphasized that no one can earn or is entitled to salvation. Salvation comes from God's grace alone. How can we receive God's grace in our Catholic faith?
4. Read "The Last Judgment" (Catechism for Adults pg. 156-157) If salvation is only given by God alone, why is it still important to pray, attend mass, serve, etc.?
5. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says "Whatever you did for these least brothers of mine, you _____." (see Catechism for Adults pg. 157)

5. Closing (choose one or both)

Discuss takeaways and questions about Fr. Tilley's recent Sanctuary Lesson.

As a family, discuss your current prayer intentions and take a moment to pray together.