

Chapter 20

God so loved us that He created such a wonderful planet for us to enjoy. He also made us to His image and likeness - this is through our soul which can live forever (if we are good and do good all the time). How do we always do good, it is a task we need to exercise everyday, because sometimes it can be hard to do good. An example is Maybe wanting to watch inappropriate television, gossip, take something that doesn't belong to them, lie, cheat, argue with parents or teachers?? As kids get older, the temptations they face also get more difficult to handle or ignore. Like any exercise we need to exercise to always continue to do good everytime. We **pray** for strength to do good and we ask the saints to help and inspire us to do good.

Death and Heaven. Not necessarily easy subjects to discuss, even for a Christian adult. While our faith rests in the hope of Eternal Life through Christ, for most of us, the death of a loved one who is a believer is still something with which we struggle to understand and cope with.

It may be perfectly acceptable for a six-year-old to hear that grandma went to Heaven because Jesus called her home. While we will miss seeing her at Christmas time, we know that she is now in Heaven with grandpa! This helps explain why we are sad that she is no longer here with us, but also rejoicing that she is in Heaven. But if you have an older child who needs more information to alleviate undue anxiety, it might be important to talk to them about grandma's heart being sick, or her cancer, etc.– still reassuring them that Heaven is a wonderful place that Jesus has prepared for us! While a lot of kids may not need any more information than that, be open to their questions and pray for guidance as you answer them truthfully, yet carefully.

We live forever in heaven (after our body dies). Death is natural, nothing lives forever. All plants, animals and people live and then die. It is the cycle of life. When we die, we can't bring anything with us.

While we live, we can admire the lives of the saints who are now in heaven. One saint lived serving the poor and the sick. She did not have time for anything else like tv. This is Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Teach that when someone dies, it is ok to be sad. We gather for mass and we thank God for giving us this person to be in our lives. We share happy memories with family and friends. We tell stories about our loved one and we ask God to take care of the person who has died. We ask God to welcome him or her to Heaven.

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains Heaven as the full joy of living with God forever. God wants everyone to live in love and happiness with him.

God's Word



See **Luke 17:20–21** to read what Jesus said about the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Catholics Believe

- Jesus said those who die can have new life with him in Heaven.
- God invites all people to Heaven. All who follow Jesus and obey God's laws will go to Heaven.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1023–1025 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Emily de Vialar. Saint Emily had a special love for sick children and taught them that Jesus wants them to be happy here and in Heaven.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Life with God First-graders are still forming a concept of Heaven as they struggle with the idea that death is a permanent change and is different from sleeping. If your child has had a grandparent or another family member who died, he or she might have been told that the person "went to Heaven." Children this age tend to think of Heaven as a place somewhere way up in the sky. This can make them also think about life without a parent or caregiver. Because of this, they can be afraid of death and therefore afraid of Heaven. Eternal life, a difficult concept even for us as adults, is fairly incomprehensible for young children. Be careful how you talk to children about Heaven. Even if it sounds marvelous, they may be reluctant in wanting to go!



CONSIDER THIS >>>

What does forever mean to you?

As a child it may have been the time we waited for Christmas or a birthday. As a young adult we may focus on the seeming "forever" of things to come—marriage, family, retirement. The older we get, the more we realize that forever is more than this life. "Every time we attend a funeral vigil or Mass, view a deceased body at a wake, or pass by a cemetery, we are reminded of this simple and profound article of the Creed, the belief in the resurrection of the body. It is a sobering belief, because it reminds us of the judgment yet to come, and at the same time it is a joyful belief that heralds life everlasting with God" (*USCCA, p. 156*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child about Jesus' promise to his followers.
- Talk about loved ones who have passed away and what living forever with God means to you.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Emily, pray for us that we may be happy here on Earth and in Heaven with Jesus. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 20 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence.

1. God wants everyone to be

_____ *happy* _____

2. Jesus said that after death you can

_____ have new _____ *life* _____

3. You can be happy with God when you

_____ *follow* _____ Jesus.

4. You can have the full joy of living with God forever

_____ in _____ *heaven* _____

Word Bank

follow

life

Heaven

happy

B Check Understanding Put the events in order.

5. We have life
forever with God.

7. We are born.

6. We die.

8. We live.

