

Grade 1 - Chapter 20

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objective

- Describe Heaven as living and being happy with God forever

Life Forever with God

Ask: What is Heaven?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

- Lead the children through a simple enactment of a flower's life cycle.
- Ask the children to curl up in a ball. Tell them that plants start out as seeds.
- Have the children stand, and tell them that plants grow.
- Ask them to stand on their toes with arms stretched up. Tell them that flowers bloom.
- Ask the children to drop to the floor, and tell them that the flower dies.
- Remind them that Jesus promised his followers life after death.

God's Word

Proclaim "Together Always."

- Ask the children to listen for Jesus' promise.
- Ask: What do you think it is like with God the Father?

Happiness Forever

Read aloud the paragraph.

Work with Words

Hold up an index card with the word *Heaven*. Explain to the children that Heaven is the full joy of living with God and the Saints forever.

- Help the children understand that the phrase Jesus uses in the Scripture story—“my Father's house”—is a metaphor for Heaven.
 - Ask the children why they think *house* is a good word to describe Heaven. Lead the children to focus on the house as a setting for family happiness.
 - Tell the children that holy people have new life with God forever.
- Music Option: Have the children sing, “Now Thank We All Our God,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Have the children work independently to draw their ideas.
- Provide time for the children to talk in a small group about what might make them happy in Heaven.

Quick Review

Life and happiness with God and the Saints forever is called Heaven.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Identify God's desire for everyone to be happy with him forever
- Recognize that following Jesus and obeying God's laws are how we live in love now and forever

Happy Forever

Ask: What do you need to do to be happy with God forever?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read aloud the paragraph.

- Tell the children that God's love is so great that he wants all people to be happy with him after they die.
- Point out the pictures of the Saints.
- Ask the children to tell what they recall about each Saint.
- Explain that the Saints are among those who are in Heaven with Jesus.

The Way to Heaven

Read the paragraph aloud.

- Share with the children that fact that whenever they show love for others, they get an idea of the happiness that is Heaven.
 - Explain that when they live as a follower of Jesus, they are living like the Saints who are in Heaven with Jesus. Everyone who follows Jesus will be in Heaven with God forever.
- ★ Have the children draw in the empty frame, a picture of someone from their family who helped them learn more about following Jesus.

Refer to page 320 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of the Student Book to learn about

praying with the Saints.

► Music Option: Have the children sing, “Do This in Memory of Me,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Point out the Connect Your Faith activity and read aloud the directions.

- Have the children write one action that Jesus wants us to do.

Quick Review

One gets to be in Heaven with God by loving God and others.

Catechist Tips: Honoring the Dead

Talk with the children about ways people from other cultures honor their relatives who have died.

- Explain that Native Americans often commemorate the death of a loved one by hosting a giveaway during a pow-wow. This tradition exemplifies the value of sharing with others. Gifts such as blankets, beadwork, and crafts are given to friends and visitors.

Catechist Tips: Sensitive Topics

Be aware that death is a very sensitive topic for most young children, especially for those who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one or a family pet.

- Handle the children’s questions gently, and respect the privacy of children for whom this topic is too difficult.

Catechist Tips: The Holy Trinity

Like the number seven, the number three plays an important part in Scripture and in Catholic theology.

- In addition to the three members of the Trinity, there are three members of the Holy Family.
- References to the number three are numerous in the Bible, including the Gospels, which state that Jesus rose on the third day.

Glossary Activity: Heaven

Have the children create a collage about what they think Heaven might be like.

- Divide the children into groups to brainstorm ideas, and then have them draw and cut out their images.
- Have the children glue their pictures on a large piece of paper to create a collage.

Additional Activity: Spread Your Wings

Let the children experience the life cycle of a butterfly.

- Have the children make a chrysalis out of an empty paper towel roll. Have them cut out and decorate a pre-drawn butterfly.
- Direct the children to roll it up inside the chrysalis and then unfurl the butterfly.

Additional Activity: Make Prayer Cards

Have the children make prayer cards to give to parishioners who have experienced bereavement.

- Work with the children to develop a list of short comforting prayers.
- Have the children transfer the prayers to cards and decorate the cards. Give them to your parish bereavement minister.

Additional Activity: Give Comfort

Some children may wish to do a different version of the activities in the chapter.

- Have them look at Jesus' words in this chapter. Tell them to decide what their favorite line is and to copy it onto their papers, preceded by the words "Jesus said." Suggest that they decorate their papers.

Parish Video Connection: I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

After completing the Catechist Edition instruction for page 263, tell the children that they are going to sing a song. Show the children some basic gestures to go along with the song before you begin watching the video (e.g. "joy"—wave their arms from side to side; "my heart"—cross their hands over their heart, "happy"—point to their smile; "peace"—make a peace sign; "redeemer"—lift both hands high). Then play the video and invite the children to sing along and make the corresponding gestures.

Say: We are joyful because we know that Jesus' followers can live with God and be happy with him forever in Heaven.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/Z29h7HUcJus>