

Third Grade: Lesson 12

Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, and the End of Time

Lesson Objective:

The central part of the Apostles' Creed states our belief in the "four last things" (death, judgment, heaven, hell). The secular culture has many misconceptions about the last things; however, this lesson aims to help children understand the truth about what the Church believes. It is important to connect this lesson to the kerygma that was proclaimed in lesson 2 so that they better understand Jesus' victory over death and His desire to spend eternity with each of them. Catechists are invited to review the Church's teaching on this topic beginning with CCC 1020 in order to obtain a deeper understanding of the topic and answer any questions that may arise.

Learning Outcomes: Students Will ...

- Discuss the concepts of heaven, hell, and purgatory (CCC 1020-1037).
- Explain that Jesus will come again in glory at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead (CCC 1038-1041).
- Discuss Christ's resurrection and the resurrection of our bodies at the end of time (1 Cor 15:35-57).
- Recognize that entering into Heaven means a profound unity and harmony of the soul and the body.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils, crayons, Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Copies needed: Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory Art activity and coloring sheet below, Heaven Mobile Activity prepared

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a Kerygma poster or coloring sheet available, such as the one below
- Link to th poster seen below: [Kerygma Sheet](#)



- See below for printable items for this craft.

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A

V

E

N

Eternal
Life

Happy

Very
Beautiful

Angels

No
Evil

Every
Believer

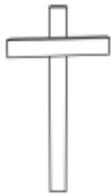
THE KERYGMA



GOD CREATES



SIN ENTERS



JESUS SAVES



WE RESPOND

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to your prayer space. Select a prayer of your choosing.
- Hold a discussion about the Kerygma. Ask if students remember learning this in a previous lesson? If not, that's okay. This is why we revisit what we learn.
- Ask students to share their thoughts about the poster.

| Lesson Order | Implementation Ideas |
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| <p>Lesson 12 Video</p> <p>Please note this is a sensitive and complex subject matter. It's okay if students don't fully understand it all at this age. Do your best to be encouraging and positive. Remind them that God loves them very much and He knows we all make mistakes. God is looking for us to do our best, go to Church, and follow His Commandments.</p> <p>It's OKAY not to be perfect. God knows we are not perfect.</p> | <p>This video is 1:14 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In our last session, we learned about our Blessed Mother, Mary. We hear about Mary in the Apostles Creed. In the creed, we learn about the Holy Trinity, Mary, and our belief in the 4 last things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Death ● Judgment ● Heaven ● Hell <p>It is important to note that in today's culture, there are many misconceptions about the 4 last things. Today, students will learn the truth about this important topic.</p> <p>Jesus is our salvation. He lived, died, rosed from the dead, and is lives in Heaven with God. Jesus will come again at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead. All people will be resurrected with our bodies at the end of time. It is through Christ's victory over death* and his desire to spend eternity with us, that we come to understand more fully about the 4 last things.</p> <p>It is important for students to know what this means: That by His death, resurrection and ascension into Heaven, Christ opened the gates of Heaven (closed due to sin and opened through Christ, our new Covenant) so that when earthly people die, we are able to join Him in Heaven. Christ is the only human person who can do this. Christ is waiting for us to join Him, God, Saints, Angels, etc... in Heaven.</p> <p>Also, this is a difficult and somewhat scary topic for children. Please remind them several times that we are blessed to know this Kerygma, Good News, so we may live with Jesus for eternity in Heaven when our time on Earth is done.</p> |
| <p>Life After Life: The Catholic View</p> | <p>This video is 7:12 in length but does finish at 6:53.</p> <p>Highlights: This video answers the question: What is it like to be in the next life?</p> |

Stop the video and provide time for students to ask questions or to share their thoughts. Then finish the rest of the video.

Eternity is not so much a long stretch of time after we die. Eternity exists in a kind of forever now. There isn't really a before or after, since time is a concept here on Earth but not in heaven.

Heaven and Hell do exist. Although we don't know what Heaven looks like, we are told it feels like coming home. We are never lonely, and always feel loved. We all have inside of us a longing for a home that doesn't really exist on Earth. Remember, Jesus said the kingdom of Heaven is within you. We can have a small understanding of what eternity in Heaven is like, now as we live on Earth. Jesus said: Love the Creator of the universe and your neighbor as you love yourself. This love that we have for God and for others is a taste of the love we will feel in Heaven.

Purgatory is a place where we go after we die to be purified and healed from our self-centeredness and sin. It is important for students to understand that even though we confess our sins and have received forgiveness, we still need to "recover" from our sins and clean our souls, in order to enter Heaven. This can be compared to an illness: We are sick, we get better, but we still may feel tired or weak. We need time to recover.

At this point in the video there is a funny skit about Purgatory.

You may want to stop the video and provide time for students to ask questions, or discuss what was covered so far.

Heaven is being one with God and in communion with all good things. Hell is isolation, being separated from love, God, and all others.

CCC 1033 says: Hell is a state of definitive self-exclusion from God and from those who love God. Self-exclusion is the key words here. God doesn't send anyone to hell. A person chooses hell by absolutely rejecting God through words, actions, and attitudes toward God and others.

Hell does exist, but remember God created everyone for Heaven.

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| <p>What is Hell?</p> | <p>This sketchpad video is 3:20 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: How can a good God allow Hell, much less banish someone there?</p> <p>The problem is not with God; the problem has to do with human beings, like us. We are called to a communion of love with God. Remember, that love cannot be forced. We offer love freely; it's a free gift. This same freedom makes it possible for us to turn against God. Mortal sin is directed against God and his creation and therefore, it separates us from God. If we don't repent (go to confession) this separation will persist. Therefore, we condemn ourselves to hell – God does not.</p> <p>What does Hell feel like? The video references CS Lewis, which is above the third-grade level realm of understanding. However, it sums up as loneliness. People in hell are lonely because they are stubborn and not capable of seeing or admitting their own mistakes. They are not happy. They are called egotists.</p> <p>**You may choose to stop the video at the mention of CS Lewis and the question: What does Hell feel like, since it's more difficult to understand. It's up to you since you know your students best.</p> |
| <p>What is Purgatory?</p> | <p>This is another sketchpad video and is 4:40 in length.</p> <p>It may be overwhelming with information for a third-grade level and it does repeat information from the Life After Life video.</p> <p>If you choose not to show this video, please show the next one about Purgatory.</p> <p>Highlights: Heaven is perfect communion with God. We can only reach perfect communion with God if we are sanctified or holy.</p> <p>When we are baptized, we are put on a path of holiness and perfection, through the grace of God found in the Sacraments. But, as we all know, we are not perfect and we</p> |

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| | <p>sin. Even when we confess our sins and are forgiven, something still needs to be rectified. Repentance and confession are two steps needed. We need to make amends or restitution and we need to be purified. That is why we need Purgatory.</p> |
| <p>Purgatory Continued</p> | <p>This video is 1:36 and a priest simply states that Purgatory gives our souls time needed to be purified in order to see the Lord, face to face.</p> <p>Provide time for students to ask questions or share their thoughts about Purgatory.</p> |
| <p>What Happens at the end of our Lives Video?</p> | <p>This is another sketchpad video that is 3:19 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: The human soul is eternal and spiritual. It cannot break. The human soul comes before God when we die. There we receive the reward for the good and the bad we have done. This is called the particular judgment and this is when we are assigned our eternal fate.</p> <p>It is important for our souls to leave this world in love and friendship with God because, when we die, our soul leaves its earthly body and cannot return to it. Once you are in Heaven and being judged by God, that's it.</p> <p>During the Last Judgment, that will occur at the very end of the world, our bodies will then resurrect and join the soul once more. What this will look like or be like we have no way of knowing. However, St. Paul compared our future glorified body to a seed, and the plant that grows from it. They are somehow the same, yet completely different.</p> <p>The video further explains why our bodies joins our soul at the end of the world and the concept of eternal destiny.</p> |
| <p>Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory Art Activity</p> | <p>Following the instructions, encourage students to draw what they think, Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory will look like.</p> <p>It is important to note that the first and brimstone of hell has not been depicted in this lesson. Hell is complete loneliness and separation from all that is good (GOD).</p> |

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| Heaven Mobile Craft | Refer to pictures under Materials Needed |
| Closing Prayer | Gather around your prayer space and recite a traditional Catholic prayer. |