

Lesson 14 – The Resurrection and Life Everlasting

Grades 6-8

Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 14 in the Baltimore Catechism. Be sure to have copies (color if possible) of the work of art for the opening; and copies of the activity sheet.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34

Leader: Lord, You have offered us everlasting life. Open our minds and hearts so we can appreciate this gift and accept it. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening:

To get students thinking about some of the topics at hand, share with them Stefan Lochner’s *Last Judgment*. Ask them to look closely at the picture and discuss what it contains. How does it relate to the Scripture passage the class opened with? You may read all of Matthew 25:21-46 to give them more context.

Watch the Lesson 14 Video on Catholic Brain

Comprehension Questions: *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on*

1) What is the Resurrection of the Body?

At the end of the world, our bodies will rise from the dead to be reunited with our souls.

2) What are the particular and general judgments?

At death, every person is judged and his soul goes to heaven, hell, or purgatory. At the end of time, our bodies rise and every person, body and soul, is separated, the good from the wicked, for eternity.

3) What is heaven?

Perfect happiness, with God and the entire Mystical Body of Christ, the saints and angels, forever.

4) What is hell?

Eternal separation from God. It is a suffering that lasts for eternity.

5) What is purgatory?

A period of purification after death for the saved who are not yet ready for heaven because of some attachment to sin or temporal punishment necessary for their perfection. Purgatory contains both suffering and joy; it is temporary and all souls in purgatory will go to heaven.

Discussion Questions: *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) What must we do to go to heaven?

Answers should refer to some main points – a) know, love, and serve God; b) love God with all our hearts and our neighbor as ourselves; c) die in a state of grace

2) Discuss the following statement: Judgment is the unveiling of the truth about us.

Man decides where he will spend eternity. We have either accepted or rejected God's gift of salvation. Judgment is the bringing to light our own choice.

3) If God loves all people and wants all people to go to heaven, why can some go to hell?

God offers us salvation as a free gift and gives us everything we need for our salvation, but He never forces us to accept it. He does not take away our free will. He will respect a person's choice to reject His grace, even if He doesn't like it.

Go Deeper:

Students will discuss a little more the nature of purgatory. It is a place of joy and of suffering where the remains of sin are removed from a soul so that it can enter heaven perfectly pure. St. Catherine of Genoa was given visions of purgatory. Explore the following quotes she has left us.

- 1) “I believe no happiness can be found worthy to be compared with that of a soul in Purgatory except that of the saints in Paradise; and day by day this happiness grows as God flows into these souls, more and more as the hindrance to His entrance is consumed. Sin's rust is the hindrance, and the fire burns the rust away so that more and more the soul opens itself up to the divine inflowing.”
- 2) “But, on the other hand, they endure a pain so extreme that no tongue can be found to tell it, nor could the mind understand its least pang”

Activity:

Mary has already been taken, body and soul, to heaven, which is the destiny God has offered all of us. Mary was never stained by sin, and her body never experienced corruption. Color one of the attached sheets and pray a decade of the rosary, meditating on Mary’s Assumption to heaven, body and soul. Use this as another opportunity to teach students how to pray and value the rosary.

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Father, we thank You for loving us and desiring to be with us for all eternity in heaven. We also thank You for the gift of purgatory that allows souls who have said “yes” to your love to be prepared to stand in your Presence. And we offer this prayer for all the souls in purgatory. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.