

# Lesson Eleven Preparation: Matthew 25:31-46

## Four Last Things

### Lesson Supplies

*Catholic Children's Bible* with table of contents page marked (page 3)

Journal for each family member and writing supplies

Videos cued up on your device

### Objectives

- Understand that sin is turning away from God, either in action or inaction, and can be mortal or venial.
- God wants to forgive our sins to be in friendship with us.
- The Four Last Things are death, judgment, hell, and heaven.

### Read

#### From the Bible

Matthew 25:31-46

#### From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Christian who unites his own death to that of Jesus views it as a step towards him and an entrance into everlasting life. [...] Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ. The New Testament speaks of judgment primarily in its aspect of the final encounter with Christ in his second coming, but also repeatedly affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with his works and faith. The parable of the poor man Lazarus and the words of Christ on the cross to the good thief, as well as other New Testament texts speak of a final destiny of the soul—a destiny which can be different for some and for others. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 1020-1021)

#### From the *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Read questions [200-217](#) and [391-396](#). This will take ten minutes.

### Watch

[What is Sin](#) (5:59) [4 Last Things](#) (2:15) [Mortal vs Venial Sins](#) (4:28) [Travel Guide to Heaven for Kids](#) (12:00)

### Reflect

Every choice has consequences. This is one of the more frustrating lessons for us as parents to teach our kids. I frequently remind my kids that choosing to disobey is the same thing as choosing to be punished. Of course, they think I'm just being mean and that they don't actually choose punishment. But I love my kids, and to love them well, they need to learn how to be respectful, to follow rules, and to honor legitimate authority. When they don't do those things, the consequence is, in a sense, self-imposed.

The opposite is true too. When my children choose to be respectful, to follow rules, and to honor legitimate authority, it makes for a happier and more peaceful house. It becomes a foretaste of heaven on earth.

The Four Last Things—death-judgement, hell, and heaven—can seem like scary concepts (especially those first three). But it is just an extension of basic parenting. Any kid who has spent time in Time Out already knows something of the alienation of hell. Any kids who has tasted the joyful peace of mutual respect and honor already knows something of the taste of Heaven.

# Lesson Twelve: Matthew 25:31-46

## Four Last Things

### Lesson Summary

Sin is turning away from God, either in action or inaction, and can be mortal or venial.

God wants to forgive our sins to be in friendship with us.

The Four Last Things are death, judgment, hell, and heaven.

### Pray

1. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. Who or what would you like to pray for today?
3. Our Father (*Catholic Children's Bible* page 1992)

### Read

#### Matthew 25:31-46 – The Final Judgement

- Read the passage slowly and out loud at least three times, maybe taking turns.
- Pay attention for a word or phrase that sticks out to you.
- In your journal, write about that word or phrase. Use some of the [suggested journal prompts](#) if you need help.

### Reflect

Wouldn't it be great if your teachers showed you the test before they gave it to you? Then you would know exactly what to study.

Jesus shows us the final exam in this story. How will we be judged when we die? We'll be judged on how we lived out our friendship with Jesus by serving him in other people. If we do well, we gain eternal life in Heaven. If we fail to love God and others, we choose an eternity separated from God in Hell.

Some people are afraid to think of death, judgement, hell, and heaven. But Jesus doesn't want you to be afraid. That's why told us what to expect. Jesus loves you and wants you to love him. That's an easy test if you are prepared.

### Watch

- [What is Sin](#) (5:59)
- [4 Last Things](#) (2:15)
- [Mortal vs Venial Sins](#) (4:28)
- [Travel Guide to Heaven for Kids](#) (12:00)

### Discuss

- When you think of heaven, what comes to mind?
- Who are your family's "faithful departed" who have gone on before you?
- Sirach 7:36 says if you remember your death you will never sin; why do you think that is?

### Salvation History

Sometime this week, read **God Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3:8-10)**, pages 1340-1341 in the *Catholic Children's Bible*.

This is the story of the young prophet

### Live

- Prayer St. Gertrude's [Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory](#) a few times this week.
- Set up a family prayer table with pictures of your deceased relatives and friends. This prayer table will remind you to pray for them and to ask them to pray for you.

## Lesson Eleven Supplemental Materials

### Four Last Things

#### Lesson Summary Statements

- Sin is turning away from God. It hurts ourselves, others, and God.
- Mortal sin is a complete turning away a complete break in relationship with God; its conditions are:
  - A grave or serious offence against God or neighbor
  - Done knowing that it is a serious offence against God or neighbor
  - That you freely choose to do
- Venial Sin is less serious sin that wounds our relationship with God.
- Sins of commission are doing things we should not do.
- Sins of omission are not doing things we should do.
- God forgives all sin if we ask Him. He is full of love and mercy.
- All of us will die and will be judged on how we lived in relationship with God by loving Him and others.
- Heaven is a state of eternal happiness with God and all the blessed.
- Hell is a state of eternal separation from God. It is full of suffering, misery, and regret.
- Purgatory is a process of preparation for Heaven after death for a person who dies in friendship with God but in need of further purification. Purgatory is temporary.
- At the end of time our bodies will be reunited to our souls. This is the resurrection of the dead or the resurrection of the body.

#### More Resources to Answer Your Questions

##### Videos

- [Word Study Sin](#) (5:42)
- [The lesser known Judgement](#) (8:18)
- [Venial or Mortal Sin](#) (6:40)
- [What is sin](#) (1:20)
- [What happens when a person commits a sin](#) (1:36)
- [forgiveness of sins](#) (1:39)
- [What is the Particular Judgement](#) (1:57)
- [Resurrection of the Body](#) (2:12)
- [Christ returns with power](#)
- [Last Judgement](#) (2:36)
- [Hell](#) (5:36)
- [Purgatory](#) (2:14)
- [Heaven](#) (2:55)
- [Life everlasting](#) (0:44)

##### Websites

- [Catholic Answers](#)
- [Credible Catholic](#)
- [Formed.org](#)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Did You Hear Something?

Find and read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 in your Bible. Use the code in the box to complete the sentences and to find Samuel's answer to the Lord.

The Israelites believed God was present in the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

1 18 11                      3 15 22 5 14 1 14 20

\_\_\_\_\_ was being called.

19 1 13 21 5 12

The Lord called him \_\_\_\_\_ times.

6 15 21 18



When Samuel heard the Lord, he answered:

" \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_  
19 16 5 1 11                      25 15 21 18                      19 5 18 22 1 14 20  
\_\_\_\_\_."  
9 19 12 9 19 20 5 14 9 14 7

What do you hear the Lord saying to you? Write it in code.

### Code:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

 **Seek and Find:** Look at pages 372 and 373 of your Bible. How many times do you see Samuel on these story pages?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## When God Speaks

Find and circle the ways that God speaks today. Then decorate and cut out the prayer card. Fold the card on the black line so that it stands. You might first have to glue it onto heavy paper.

MOTHER  
PRIEST

FATHER  
TEACHER

GRANDPARENTS  
LAWS

BIBLE  
HEART

**Speak,  
Lord,  
your servant  
is listening.**

P R T G U B I B L E F X  
J H E A R T A P N O A I  
G R A N D P A R E N T S  
D E C K B R V I M S H T  
G L H L A W S E N C E U  
F W E O H R T S T E R Z  
P Y R I S M O T H E R U



**Seek and Find:** Look at pages 372 and 373 of your Bible. How many rings do you see holding up the curtain along the top of these story pages?