

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 Children at this age 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.