

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory, describes the Mass of Christian Burial, and identifies how we prepare for eternal life by serving God and one another right now.

Scripture



Read **Luke 20:37–38** to find out what Jesus said about resurrection.

Catholics Believe

- Faith in the Resurrection is the source of hope in eternal life and happiness with God in Heaven.
- The Church cares for the dying through prayer and celebration of last Eucharist, known as viaticum.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #989, 1012, 1024, 1523–1525 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about the first martyr, Saint Stephen, whose story is told in Acts 6, 7.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the End of Life Children at this age, unlike much younger children, understand the permanence of death. They might also have some experience with death, such as a grandparent or relative who has died. What happens after death is still a mystery to them, but they may imagine Heaven as a world much like our own but better.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Have you ever described a traffic jam, a three-hour dance recital, or waiting in a long line as Hell?

While we use the term lightly, we need to pay attention to what the Church teaches us. Because God created us with free will, we have a choice between Heaven and Hell. As Catholics, we understand that “freely chosen eternal separation from communion with God is called *hell*.” While images of fire have been used traditionally to picture hell, for example in the Scriptures, the reality exceeds our ability to describe the pain of isolation that comes from rejecting God’s love” (*USCCA, p. 155*).

LET’S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain how the Church helps people prepare for death.
- Share a family story about a time when the Church helped a friend or family member prepare for death.

LET’S PRAY >>>



God, help us face death with courage and faith like Saint Stephen did. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.