

**6th & 7th Grade Homestudy Lesson #14**  
**Life Everlasting**

**GOAL**

The goal of this lesson is to help you understand what the Catholic Church teaches regarding our personal judgment and eternal life.

**THE CREED**

**Begin the lesson by carefully praying the Nicene Creed:**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose  
again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

**and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

**Lectio Divina**

**Read 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27**

How is God speaking to you through this passage?

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What did this verse teach you about preparing for life after death?

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**Read 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27 again**

## **TEACHING**

Sometimes we feel that God is unfair because things happen in our lives that we don't seem to have control over or that we can't understand. Our lives are not random – life is about a series of choices that we make. We all are going to die and face judgment. Judgment in its roots implies that we will be examined and, based on the state of our souls, a decision will occur – an eternal, forever-long sentence that cannot be overturned, overruled, or contested. The evaluation of your soul lies in your hands. There's no secret that you will find yourself in the presence of God Himself in heaven, in the depth of dark hell, or in a state of purification in purgatory.

So what does that judgment actually look like? Will you do as the legends and stories tell of meeting Saint Peter at a gate, waiting in a line with all the recently departed? Will you face God Himself and hear your sentence? In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* it states: "The message of the Last Judgment calls men to conversion while God is still giving them 'the acceptable time . . . the day of salvation.' It inspires a holy fear of God and commits them to the justice of the Kingdom of God. It proclaims the 'blessed hope' of the Lord's return, when he will come 'to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed'" (629-630).

## **At the End**

When this is life over, God desires that we spend eternity with Him. This desire is so intense that we hear in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life." The choice is ours to accept this great love and sacrifice that God has to offer. This is not to say that we should live every day wondering if today is the day we are going to die. Rather, we live each day with the "end in mind." Think for a second if you started to build a house. You wouldn't just lay some concrete in a field, find a couple of boards and bricks, and put some pipes in to build. Rather, you start with the end in mind – what will the end look like. The architect looks at how many rooms the house will be, size of the kitchen, where pipes can go – he plans ahead.

Our lives are similar, we begin with the end in mind. If you wake up everyday and throw a bunch of things together, life is going to seem chaotic and messy. And when we get to the “end,” we wonder what happened to our days. However, if we begin with the end in mind, we know better how to live our lives everyday. Each day, if we desire to get to heaven then we make our choices and decisions based on our desire to spend eternity with God in heaven. Life is not random – rather it is a sum of our choices.

### **Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell**

**Heaven** is the state of perfect happiness, beauty, and goodness. If we die in the grace of God and no further need of purification, then we are able to be with the entire company of heaven. Those in heaven now live in perfect union with God.

**Purgatory** is for those who die in the friendship of God but still need purification from some of the things that keep them away from God. It is the state that their souls enter to be “purged” in order to enter the happiness of heaven. Souls that are in purgatory are destined for heaven.

**Hell** is an eternal separation from God – which is eternal suffering.

In order for us to love as God loves, we have to have the freedom to reject Him, which we are given in our free will. Our free will is the only thing that God will never go against. That is the reason there is a hell, because God will not force us to love Him.

### **Hope**

When we keep the end in mind and keep God as the center of each day, we have hope. Hope leads us to approach life differently. When we know of the hope and promise of heaven, even when we are overwhelmed or scared, we can have hope because we know of God’s great love and mercy.

Another great gift we have is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What keeps us from God? Sin. When we choose to go against God’s will, we sin. In order to get back into the grace of God, we must come before Him and confess our sins.

There is an old saying, “If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to prove it.” If you stop and think about it, it’s a tough saying to hear. Would there be

enough evidence to prove that you love God? Live each day so that others know of your love for God. Live each day in a way that glorifies God.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What is heaven? Hell? Purgatory?
2. Why does God allow people to go to hell?
3. What does it mean to “live with the end in mind”?
4. What can you do now and for the rest of your life to prepare for your own judgment?

SEND

**An Examination of Conscience**

Complete the following examination of conscience and pray the Act of Contrition. If you are able, attend the sacrament of confession. **Please do not return the examination of conscience as this is personal to you!**

**1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.**

(The First Commandment teaches us to put God first in our lives) How do I spend my time each day?

Do I remember that God loves me?

Do I remember to give thanks to God for all that I have received? Do I have my priorities in order?

Do I pray?

**2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**

(The second commandment teaches us to speak carefully, to respect the power of our words, and to say only what we mean to say.)

Do I pay attention to the way my words affect others?

Do I misuse God's name to express anger or frustration?

Do I say hurtful things to others when I am angry or upset? Do I put down other people?

**3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**

(The third commandment teaches us to take time to worship God regularly and frequently.)

Do I take time each week to pray and to worship God?

Do I take part in Mass on a regular basis, at least every Sunday?

Do I remember that my strength comes from God, and that without God I can do nothing? Do I take time to relax and appreciate all that God has given me?

Do I make time to get to know my family and my friends better?

**4. Honor your father and your mother**

(The fourth commandment teaches us to appreciate our parents)

Am I loving, respectful, and obedient to my parents, and for all who take care of me? Am I too critical of my parents?

Do I offer to help around the house?

### **5. You shall not kill.**

(The fifth commandment teaches us to appreciate life)

Do I value all people?

Do I experiment with alcohol or drugs and show no regard to their effect on my grades, my self respect or my relationships?

Do I take good care of myself?

Have I ever physically hurt anyone?

### **6. You shall not commit adultery**

(The sixth commandment teaches us to keep our promises, and to protect our sexuality)

Do I value and respect my body?

Do I try to develop healthy relationships and avoid relationships where people are treated like things?

Do I dishonor my body through impure actions?

### **7. You shall not steal**

(The seventh commandment teaches us to respect private property and the rights of others) Do I take things that don't belong to me?

Do I respect public property and the property of other people?

Do I take more than I need?

Do I share generously?

Do I cheat on test or homework?

### **8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**

(The eighth commandment teaches us to speak the truth and never to say more than is necessary) Am I a truthful person?

Have I damaged the reputation of another person by exaggerating or making up stories about them?

Do I say things just to hurt other people?

Do I lie to protect, stay out of trouble or to avoid a difficult situation, even if someone will be hurt?

### **9. You shall not covet your neighbor's partner**

(The ninth commandment teaches us to avoid inappropriate relationships) Do I remember that all people are created in the image of God?

Am I envious of others?

Do I resent their popularity or success?

Do I feel I have to put others down in order to feel better about myself?

### **10. You shall not covet your neighbor's things.**

(The tenth commandment teaches us to find happiness where we are)

Do I let greed or envy take over my thoughts?

Do I try to prove I am better than others by bragging or buying more things? Do I think my own wants are more important than other people's?

Do I remember that it is who I am, not what I own, that is really important?

*Lord, help us to examine our lives honestly. Help us to see the things that keep us from being the people you created us to be, and give us the desire and the courage to change.*

### **Act of Contrition**

O my God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin.

Amen.