

6th & 7th Grade Homestudy Lesson #9
The Last Judgment

GOAL:

The goal of this lesson is to help you understand what the Catholic Church teaches regarding our final 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 Matthew 24:29-31

How is God speaking to you through this passage?

What did this verse teach you about the last judgement?

Read Matthew 24:29-31 again

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus dwells always with us through the Church, but He will come again at the end of time and overcome suffering and evil once and for all. We do not know the hour that He will come — but when He does we will know that it is Him. (CCC 673)
- At the Last Judgment, our bodies will be resurrected, the truth of every single human's relationship will be laid bare before all as well as all the consequences of his or her good and bad actions, and everyone will then go to either heaven or hell for all eternity. (CCC 1038-1039)
- The universe will be redeemed, God will dwell with humanity, and there will be complete unity of the human race with God. All will live with Christ in a holy city where there is no longer division or suffering, and all experience complete and utter happiness, peace, and love. (CCC 1045)

TEACHING:

Our lives are not random – life is about a series of choices that we make. While we all are going to perish – it's what happens **after** we die that we're talking about in this lesson. 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.**

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. And 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.**

JESUS WILL COME AGAIN

So many popular movies depict what it will be like at the end of the world or life after the world itself has died or stopped being habitable. But, as Christians, we hold a very different view of the end of the world. What a lot of these movies do get right are the wars, famines, and destruction that will occur. We are in a time of waiting and will go through a period of suffering

and persecution, but that is not the end of the story. (CCC 668-673) **Jesus dwells always with us through the Church, but He will come again at the end of time and overcome suffering and evil once and for all.** We do not know the hour that He will come — but when He does we will know that it is Him. (CCC 673)

THE LAST JUDGMENT

A lot of things will happen at the end of the world when Jesus comes again. To begin, the dead will rise. This is not some sort of zombie apocalypse type rising, but rather the bodies of all those who have died will rise and rejoin their souls and all will proceed to the Last Judgment. (CCC 988-1001) **Our bodies will also be glorified just as Jesus Christ's body was glorified after His death.** When our bodies are reunited with our souls, they will be glorious like Jesus' body. (CCC 999)

At the Last Judgment, the truth of every single human's relationship will be made known to everyone as well as all the consequences of his or her good and bad actions. That means that all of us will know everything about every single person who has ever lived. (CCC 1038-1039) **At the Last Judgment, we will also know the ultimate meaning of the creation of the world and all of history; all of our questions about anything that has ever happened will be answered.** (CCC 1040) It is also at this time that the body and soul of all the righteous will enter into the eternal happiness of heaven, and all the wicked will go to the eternal punishment of hell. (CCC 1028)

THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

After all of this has taken place, the Kingdom of God will come in its fullness. (CCC 1042-1047) After all humanity has been judged, the righteous will reign forever with Christ in their glorified body and soul in the new and eternal Kingdom of God.

Read Revelations 21:1-4

The universe will be redeemed, and God will dwell with humanity and there will be complete unity of the human race with God. They will all live with Christ in a holy city where there is no longer division or suffering, and all will experience complete and utter happiness, peace, and love with everyone. (CCC 1045) The hope for this new heaven and earth should inspire us to continue to do good work now and to build up the Kingdom of God as it is present here and now through the Church. (CCC 1048-1050) Not only should we be keeping our own lives in check to ensure that one day we will reign in glory with God, but we should also help those around us come to know Christ and the hope you have in Him.

QUESTIONS

1. What is Heaven? Hell? Purgatory?

2. What do you think about life after death? How does it make you feel to think about this aspect of your journey?

3. Describe from the lesson what will happen at the Last Judgement:

4. Why does this lesson give us a reason for hope?

SEND

End this lesson by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for mercy on the world.

[The Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)