



the Parish of St. Dunstan

A CHILDREN'S CATECHISM TO ECHO GOD'S LOVE IN THE WORLD

PART I: Our Faith

Lesson 18: the life everlasting

This is a repeat-after-me-prayer:
Loving God,
you are amazing.
Shine a light into our hearts
so we can know you more and more;
and show us Jesus,
our Friend and Helper.
Amen.

I wonder what **heaven** is.

Everything comes from God. Everything is in God. God is everywhere: in the living things and in the dead things. Heaven is what we call a place where people go when they die. It is a place where God can be fully known and loved. It is a place where no one is afraid, and no one is hurt. It is a place of love and peace.

God is like a large planet with an enormous gravitational pull. God draws everyone and everything ever nearer to God.

Is it possible for someone to not go to heaven? Yes, people can still choose not to be pulled into God. But it is exceedingly difficult. God's gravitational pull is extraordinarily strong. God's love is enormous. God wants to help everyone. *1 Timothy 2:4*

Here is a prayer to pray when we think about these things:

**O Jesus,
forgive me when I hurt others,
protect me from harm,
and pull everyone into your presence,
especially those who are sad and afraid. Amen.**

1 Heaven is about faith

Faith is the story we receive from the people who come before us and story we pass on to others. The faith we have is that God made us, God is with us, and God heals us. Heaven is the place of re-creation, presence, and wholeness.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. And I heard a loud voice say, “Look! God’s home is with us. God will wipe every tear from our eyes, death will be no more, and pain will be no more.” *Revelation 21:1-4*

Activity: Write down these words on their own pieces of paper: PAIN, WAR, FEAR, VIOLENCE, HATE, DEATH. Now, say, “no more ____!” And rip up each piece of paper as you say it. How do you feel?

2 Heaven is about hope

Hope is the dream we all have that things can be good. Hope is the imagination we use to think about how God is with us and helps us. Hope does not get distracted by our circumstances but looks beyond them.

St. Julian of Norwich had a vision of Jesus and asked him why there is pain and suffering. “Couldn’t God have prevented it?” Jesus told her, “Yes there is pain and suffering, but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” *Showing 13*

Activity: Draw a picture of how you imagine a perfect world would look.

3 Heaven is about love

Heaven is where we are present with God. God is love. Heaven is where we can love and be loved perfectly.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *John 3:16*

Activity: Learn this prayer: O Jesus, forgive me when I hurt others, protect me from harm, and pull everyone into your presence, especially those who are sad and afraid. Amen. *Adapted from the Fatima Prayer*