

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 26 JUDGED BY LOVE

Objectives

- Describe how God will judge at the end of time.
- Explain why God's judgment need not be feared.
- Explore the Church's teaching regarding heaven, hell, and purgatory.
- Recognize that what happens in the next life is related to how well one shows love and mercy in this life.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 194–195

Discuss with your child a time either of you felt judged unfairly. Read the chapter title on page 194: **Judged by Love**. Assure your child that God's judgment is always full of justice, truth, and mercy, even when others judge us wrongly. Pray together the opening **Prayer**. Explain that the title *King of kings* describes Jesus as greater than all earthly governments and rulers. He has supreme authority. He is a just king who rewards those who are faithful and punishes those who are unfaithful.

Read the text on page 194. Note that conversion is always possible because of God's grace and mercy. Be sure that your child understands that making some wrong moral choices in this life does not disqualify us from being with God in the next. When we try our best to be morally good, ask God's forgiveness, and try to make up for wrongs we do, God looks at the "big picture."

Ask your child to describe what is happening in the photograph. (The students are being awarded prizes for the work they have done or for showing good character.)

Invite a response to the caption. (a graded test, a report card, a race, a piano recital, and so on) Make sure your child realizes that participating fairly and trying to do our best are more important than winning a prize.

Invite your child to look at the photograph of the shopping mall on page 195. Ask: How does this picture show how we can be tempted into thinking that the more “stuff” we own, the better people we are? (Possible answers: We see all kinds of nice things to buy; we may feel we should be buying things, too.)

Complete the **Activity**, and discuss your child’s responses. (Answers should include reference to external criteria such as appearance, wealth, and celebrity.)

Take turns with your child reading the text on page 195. Lead him or her to realize that true friends like us for who we are, not for the brand names we buy. Ask: What are some of your abilities? What abilities do your family members and friends have?

Help your child realize that people with great wealth are no better than people with little money or possessions. We are all called to share with others what we have been given.

Remind your child that learning to cooperate and live in peace is more important than winning a competition.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 196–199

Have your child pretend that he or she will make a movie about the end of the world. Ask: What will it be like? Explain that in this chapter he or she will get a better understanding of the end of the world.

Have your child look carefully at the photograph on page 196. Read the caption and explain that the direction west symbolizes the last judgment because it is the direction in which the sun sets.

Read **Catholics Believe**. Remind your child that God’s kingdom will be fulfilled at the last judgment. Until then we are called to be signs of God’s kingdom on earth by loving others and working for justice.

Read **The Life of the World to Come**, pages 196–197; then ask: How will God judge us at the end of the world? (by how we have loved and shown mercy)

Reinforce the idea that for people who follow God’s laws, the last judgment will be a time of joy and happiness. They will be united with God forever.

Help your child understand the highlighted terms. In discussing *heaven*, *hell*, and *purgatory*, make sure your child does not see these as geographical locations. Explain the terms in relationship to God and our friendship with him. We ourselves choose what will happen to us after death by the choices we make each day.

Read the **Scripture Signpost** on page 197, and invite responses to the question. (We have faith in God’s everlasting love; we know that death is not an end but a beginning and that we will be judged on love.)

In discussing the photograph of the funeral liturgy, point to the Easter, or Paschal, candle, which represents Christ, the Light of the World. Also point out the white pall covering the casket, which represents the white garment we received at Baptism. It is a symbol reminding us of Christ and that we share not only in his death but also in his resurrection.

Read the caption question. Help your child understand that Christians believe death is the end of our earthly journey of faith and the beginning of our eternal life in God; by dying we share in Jesus' death and also in his resurrection.

Explain that Jesus tells us what the end of time will be like. Read **Come into the Kingdom** on page 198. Ask: Whom does the Son of Man (Jesus) invite into God's kingdom? (those who have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, welcomed strangers, clothed the naked, nursed the sick, and visited prisoners.)

Read **Our Moral Guide** and remind your child of Jesus' story about a rich man and a poor man. (See pages 68–69.) The rich man did not enter God's kingdom after death because throughout life he had ignored the needs of the poor man. Then invite responses to the question. (Help your child understand that those who are poor are not only those without material possessions but also all people in need of love and care from us. The last judgment is not restricted to those who are wealthy; each of us, rich and poor, will be judged on how well we have shared not only our material riches but also our love, time, and talents.)

Ask your child to describe what they see in the picture, recalling the story Jesus told. (At the end of the world, Jesus will come in judgment. He will separate those who have helped people in need from those who have not.)

Continue reading the **Scripture Story** on page 199. Ask: Why did the king in the story punish some of the people? (They hadn't shown love for those in need.) Why do you think Jesus said the way we treat other people is the way we treat him? (God lives within each person. Therefore, when we love other people, we are loving God. Our love is not restricted to those who are rich or can repay us but extended to help those who cannot repay us)

Ask your child to describe how the boy in the photograph may be feeling. (lonely, left-out, sad, unhappy) Ask your child to read aloud and answer the caption. (We can talk to the person, include him or her in what we are doing, listen to the person, and so on.)

Read **Saints Walk with Us: Catherine deHueck Doherty**. Explain that Catherine has not yet been declared a saint, although many people believe that she is because she used her treasures and talents to help those who were poor. She did these things because of her great love for Christ and her desire to be like him.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 200

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing the sections: **Recall, Think and Share, and Continue the Journey.**

Read and discuss **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish.** Try to follow through on these suggestions.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete pages 51–52 in your **Faith Journal.**

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 201

Ask: Do you remember how Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments? (Love God; love your neighbor as yourself.)

Draw attention to the background image of the stained-glass heart on page 201. Ask: What does this heart say to you about how Christians should live? (The heart is a symbol of love; Christians are called above all else to love God and to love others as ourselves.) In discussing the bottom picture, ask: Why do you think the people in this picture are happy? (They love one another.)

Read **Our Song Is Love.** Emphasize that love is at the heart of Christian life and morality.

Close the lesson with prayer. Begin by making the sign of the cross and mentioning the names of loved ones who have died. Then thank God for the gift of life and for his love. End by praying the **Prayer** on the bottom of page 201. (This Latin verse comes from our liturgical tradition, specifically the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.)