

TEACHER'S NOTES

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| 6 year olds | OUR HEAVENLY FATHER |
| Chapter 19 | JESUS WAS RAISED TO NEW LIFE |
| Lesson 3 | WE CAN LIVE FOREVER |

AIMS

1. Children will understand that when Jesus rose from the dead He won back the gift of grace.
2. They will learn that Jesus opened the gates of Heaven so man may go to Heaven.
3. They will realize that Catholics receive Jesus' life and grace through the sacraments, especially in Holy Communion.

BEGIN

Ask the children if they like to receive presents. Have them look at the Special Paragraph in their packs as you read it out: My dear child, I love you and want to share My life with you in Heaven forever. I offer you the gift of My life. Will you receive My gift of grace? Love, Jesus.

STEP 1

Explain to the children that we can also choose whether or not we accept the gift, but it is important to know that this gift requires great care. Use the example of an animal, e.g. a pet dog. What care must we take of this dog? You would need to feed it, exercise it, clean up after it, and teach it to behave.

STEP 2

Review with the children the sin of Adam. Remind them that because of this sin, people could not go to Heaven; they had lost the gift of grace. Jesus' death and resurrection won back this grace and opened the gates of Heaven.

STEP 3

Remind the children that this gift of Jesus (grace) is His life in the soul and that it requires great care; it is a gift for which the individual must be responsible. A Catholic must feed his soul with prayer and the Eucharist. He must exercise his soul with deeds and prayer. He must keep it clean by not sinning, and tell God he is sorry if he does sin, and then go to Confession. We must not leave our soul alone (without grace) for too long either. He must pray and go to Mass. He must teach it, by reading the Bible, and by listening at Mass and during religion class.

STEP 4

Explain to the children that they, too, can be gifts for Jesus. Remind them how to offer up their daily works, joys, and sufferings in a Morning Offering. Ask the children to recite the Morning Offering in their packs.

Explain that loving their neighbour, doing good works, praying, and avoiding sin are all ways to make their lives pleasing to God, and that these things are gifts to God if they are done for Him.

STEP 5

Ask the children to think of ways they can offer themselves up to God. You may use talents to

serve God. They may use talents to serve Him. They may serve others in Charity. They serve others in charity. They may strive to grow in holiness in some way. Encourage the children to think of many ways so their entire lives can be a gift to God. Let them know that all things can be a gift to God except sin, but that sorrow for sin and making up for our sins can also be a gift to God.

REINFORCE

1. Assign the exercise in the children's pack.

CONCLUDE

1. Have the children promise to offer up something this week to God as a gift of thanksgiving. It might be television, a favourite food, or do a good deed. Then report back.
2. Teach the children to sing an appropriate hymn such as "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," Adoremus Hymnal, #415
3. Pray the First Glorious Mystery of the Rosary with the children.

PREVIEW

In the next lesson we will learn more about the doctrine of the resurrection of the body.