

A New Life and a Coming Messiah

Unit 5
Chapter
17

6

Background: Life After Death

In the Old Testament we find evidence that some Jews came to believe in life after death. 2 Maccabees describes how members of the Jewish army—the Maccabees—prayed for fallen comrades who had taken part in idol worship. They prayed that God would be merciful to the dead, blot out their sin, and grant them resurrection.

Because of the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, the Church has specific teachings regarding the “four last things” (death, judgment, Heaven, and hell). After death, God will judge us according to how well we have loved him and loved others. Those who have been faithful will live in Heaven (God’s presence). At the end of the world, our bodies will be reunited with our souls; we will experience resurrection as Jesus himself did. Those who have chosen to reject faithfulness to God will be punished in hell (God’s absence).

Getting Ready

1. Before introducing Chapter 17 to your child, read the Take Home pages 193 and 194 of your child’s book. Gather the family at a convenient time during the week to participate in the Activity on page 193.
2. With your child, read about Saint Lucy, the Saint of the Week. Learn more about her at SaintsResource.com.
3. Read aloud and discuss Reclaiming the Temple at the top of page 194. Learn more about Hannukah at chabad.org. Read together 1 Maccabees 4:36-56.
4. Read Our Catholic Tradition. Light a candle and spend a few moments together in silent prayer.

Focus

The resurrection of the body after death is gradually revealed in the Old Testament.

The Church Teaches

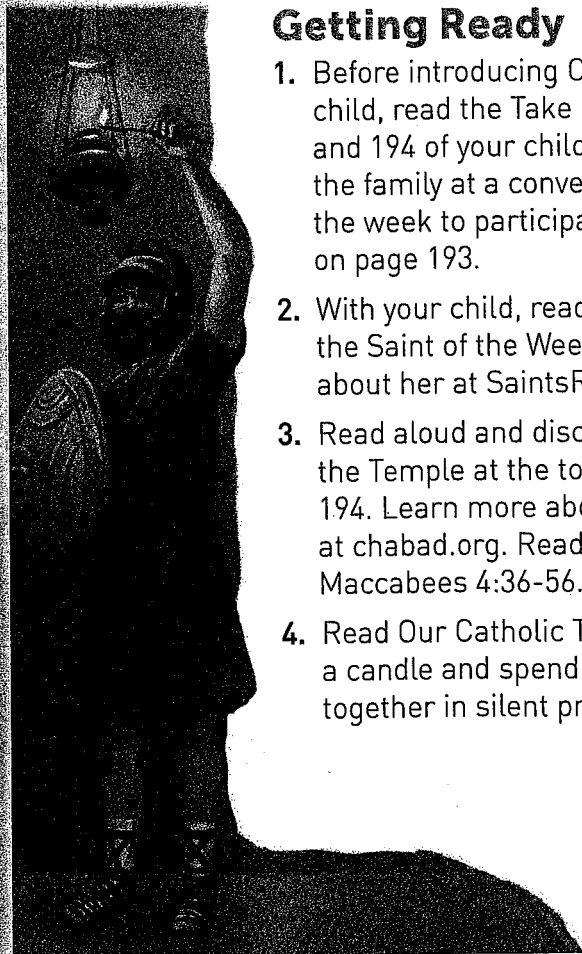
We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvellous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. The Last Judgment will reveal that God’s justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God’s love is stronger than death.⁶²⁸

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1040
⁶²⁸ Cf. Song 8:6.

Prayer

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord:
let them rest from
their labors
for their good deeds
go with them.
Amen.

Gathering in the Presence
of the Body
*Catholic Household Blessings
and Prayers*



Exploring the Chapter

Share

1. Light the candle. Read aloud the Scripture verse at the top of page 195. Share what you think life forever will be like. Pray again the Scripture verse.
2. Read aloud the Share section on page 195. Take time to discuss the questions in the first paragraph.
3. Review the directions to the activity and give your child time to complete it. Discuss your child's responses.

Hear and Believe

4. Read aloud The Struggles Under Greek Rule on page 196. Talk about the great faith of the Jews who risked death rather than give in to the Greeks. Think of examples of people in the world who are living with great faith today.
5. Look at and discuss the illustration on page 196. Ask your child to describe who the man is and what he is doing. *(He is one of the devout Jews known as the Maccabees; he is lighting the lamp in the Temple.)* If you have not already done so, take time to learn more about Hannukah at chabad.org.
6. Read Everlasting Joy on page 197. Take time to review the Faith Words, **resurrection, Heaven, Purgatory, and hell.**
7. Read Our Church Teaches and the We Believe statement. Take time to read more about the Holy Trinity on page 262.

Respond

8. Look at the painting of Saint Lucy on page 198. Recall what you learned about Saint Lucy at SaintsResource.com.
9. Read the story about Saint Lucy's life. Invite your child to name ways that Lucy honored her vow to live for Christ only. *(She accompanied her mother on a pilgrimage to find healing; she refused to marry a non-Christian; she did not renounce her Christian faith in the face of persecution and death.)*
10. Review the directions to the activities on page 199 and give your child time to complete them. Discuss his or her responses, and share your own responses to questions 2 and 3.
11. Ask your child to lead and join him or her in saying the responses in A Litany Prayer on page 200. You may wish to conclude by singing the Unit Song on page 192.
12. Have your child complete the Chapter Review. See page 48 of this guide for the answer key.
13. Work with your child to complete Faith in Action on page 202. It highlights the Catholic Social Teaching of **Call to Family, Community, and Participation.**

We really liked . . .

We want to learn more about . . .