



a Kendall Hunt Company

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, Intermediate - RCLB Lectionary



Intermediate Session

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Luke 20:27-38

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God,

thank you for the gifts of your friendship and love.

Help us to grow in friendship with you.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.



Opening Life Reflection

The focus for today's session is heaven and hell. Provide magazines, paper, scissors, and glue for the children to use to make collages. Begin the session by asking the children to reflect on what makes them happy. Then invite each child to use magazine clippings to create a collage of the things that make them happy. Discuss:

- Does God care about our happiness?
- What is eternal happiness?
- What is the difference between heaven and hell?

Allow time for discussion. God cares about our happiness. God wants us to be happy today and always. Heaven is a place of eternal happiness with God. Hell is separation from God forever.

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Listening to the Word of God

In the Old Testament reading today listen to how a family is persecuted because of their faith.

Read 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14.

Allow for silence.

Scripture Discussion Starters

- Why are seven brothers and their mother persecuted?
- How does the family stand up for what they believe?
- How does their belief in an afterlife give them the courage to face death?

In the Gospel today, listen to what Jesus tells his followers about life after death.

Read Luke 20:27-38 [or 20:27, 34-38].

Allow for silence.

- What question do the Sadducees ask Jesus?
- What are they trying to do to Jesus?
- How does Jesus answer their question about the resurrection?

Scripture Background

Provide 2-3 minutes of background information on the readings.

In the Old Testament reading a family of seven brothers and their mother are persecuted for their beliefs. They courageously defend their faith in the face of torture and death. What is notable about this passage is that the last brother professes belief in a resurrection from the dead. This is significant because at the time belief in an afterlife was a relatively new idea.

It is their belief in an afterlife that gives this family the strength and conviction to die for their



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faith. As it is presented in this passage, the wicked will perish and only the just will be raised.

In the gospel today some Sadducees question Jesus about the resurrection. They want to discredit Jesus in front of the people. The Sadducees, a religious group who accepted only the Torah, did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

The question they ask Jesus is about the marital status of seven brothers in the next life. According to the Law of Moses, the brother of a man who dies is to marry his widow in order to have a child to carry on his family line. The Sadducees try to trick Jesus into going against the Torah. Jesus gives his answer, and his argument comes from the Torah in favor of belief in the resurrection. He skillfully turns the question from a legal riddle to a question of the works of God. Jesus affirms the belief in life after death.

Questions for Deeper Reflection

- What is eternal life?
- How does believing in an afterlife help us to live our daily lives?
- How do you stand up for what you believe?

[If you are not going to continue with the doctrinal discussion, proceed to the Gospel in Life.]

Doctrinal Discussion Starters

Heaven and Hell

We believe that death is not an end to life. When we die our lives change. We pass into a new existence beyond our lives on earth. Catholic teaching holds that in the next life there are three modes of existence, heaven, purgatory and hell. Our focus for today is heaven and hell.

Hell is the everlasting separation from God. We believe that we are united with God when we freely choose to love God and others. We can choose to separate from God. When we sin we separate from God by our own free choice. Jesus warns that if we do not love our neighbor and care for the needs of others we will be separated from his presence. God is a loving God and acts to save all, but some choose to reject God. Hell is the inheritance of all who knowingly turn away from God's love.



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Heaven is eternal life and happiness with God. We believe that those who die in friendship——with God live in union with God forever. By his saving death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has opened the gates of heaven for us. Union with God is accomplished through Christ. Eternal life with God fulfills our deepest desire for happiness.

- What is sin?
- How do we choose to love God and others?
- How can living in friendship with God make us happy?

The Gospel in Life

This week how can you make choices that help you grow closer to God?

Connecting to Faith First® Legacy Edition

At Home Family Guide, theme 6

Grade 4, chapter 10

Grade 5, chapter 10

Grade 6, chapter 10

