

Family Faith

Chapter 26

Jesus Helps Us Get to Heaven

Jesus is with us always; he helps us get to Heaven.

Chapter Summary

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he told the Apostles that he would always be with them. Jesus gave us the Church as a gift through which he is really and truly present to us. Through the Church, we receive the sacraments, which were instituted by Christ and are visible, through which we receive sacramental graces. In Baptism we first receive the gift of sanctifying grace. This special grace is God's life in us and through this grace, we are transformed or sanctified to be like Christ, and to be holy. Each of the Seven Sacraments leads us through all the stages of Christian life. They give us the special graces we need to love God and each other more perfectly and ultimately lead us to Heaven. Sacramentals are statues, medals, and other symbols, as well as actions, that we have as Catholics to draw us to Jesus and to remind us to be holy. The rosary is a powerful sacramental through which Mary, our Mother in Heaven, leads us to her Son, Jesus.

More for Parents

A beautiful aspect of our Faith is that it appeals to all of our senses. We can make the Faith come alive for children and teach them a great deal by having a crucifix in our homes, images of saints, and other items that children are invited to hold and treasure. Similar to our having images of family members or keeping heirlooms because they make the people we love more present to us, holy objects will help make Jesus more present in our families' lives and move our hearts to love God more. Something as simple as giving the children a blessing with holy water before bed or setting aside time to pray the Rosary can go a long way in weaving the practice of the Faith into everyday life that will bear fruit in your family for years to come. What are some ways you can make the Faith more tangible to your children?

Our Family Prays Together

Dear God, you have given us the Church as a sign of your love for us and others. Help us to know the many gifts that you have given to the Church to help us be holy. Amen.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- *Does Jesus stay with us through the Church?* (Yes.)
- *The sacraments give us a special grace that will help us get to _____.* (Heaven.)
- *Sacramentals remind us to be _____.* (Holy.)
- *Mary leads us to _____.* (Jesus.)

Let's Live Our Faith

God's love teaches us to love. Your child learned many important things this year about the story of God's love, and how we should think and act because of God's love.

- Discuss with your family how you can show God your love.
- Discuss how you can be obedient to God, unlike Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God.
- Discuss actions that you can do to be close to both Jesus and Mary.

Family Faith Activities

Choose one or more of the following to do as a family:

- Make a Mary altar in your home. Use a statue or picture of Mary. During the month of May, place flowers before the Blessed Mother as a reminder that she is our Mother in Heaven.
- Pray the Hail Mary together as a family each night.
- Have your children draw a picture showing that we will be happy with God forever. Help them to understand that, because of Jesus, we have hope for Heaven.

For more family faith formation resources go to www.wordoflifefseries.org/parents.

Small Wonders



The Toys learn about remembering.

Read the full Small Wonders story at www.wordofliferies.org/parents.