

Edge: Kingdom Come
(Week of Jan. 24)
A Legacy ~ On the Last Things



GATHER: Play a round of charades or telephone as a family!

CONNECT: As you play charades or telephone, the message that was intended is not always the message that comes across in the end. In the same way, what God intends for our life is not always what we choose. Shelly shares the teaching this week on [The Last Four Things](#)

EXPLORE: Main Points to Take Away

- Jesus transformed death by His own death. It is no longer something to be feared, but rather a blessing because we have the great hope that, after we die, we will return to our heavenly home with Christ.
- As human beings we are created with both a physical body and a spiritual soul. Our earthly bodies will die, but our souls are immortal.
- Those who live a life in God's grace, following the example of Christ, and know God go to heaven. Heaven is where we will exist in perfect happiness for eternity with the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary, and all the angels and blessed.
- For those who die having lived a good life in God's grace but are still in need of purification from their sins, they will spend time in Purgatory. Purgatory allows us to be cleansed and prepared for heaven. If you spend time in Purgatory you are going to heaven, but only once you are totally made ready.
- Those who have rejected God during their life, die in a state of mortal sins, and are entirely unrepentant are sent to hell. God does not want anyone to go to hell. He loves all of us more than we could imagine, but He has given us free will and would never force us to love Him or spend eternity with Him.

Discussion Questions from Shelly's Proclaim

- Do you think people are fearful of death? Why or why not?
- God gave us free will to choose our destination, reflect in discussion or personal thought about the choices you make, as well as the choices of those you surround yourself with. Are the choices good 'after-life' choices?

Journal: With the biographies on the last few pages, or with one you provide, lead teens through the life of a saint and fill out the top of page 5 of their booklet. Give them time to complete the other questions on the page. Then discuss:

- What stood out to you the most about this saint?
- What challenges did they face? How did they overcome them?
- What virtue in their life do you want to live out in yours?
- Do you know about any other saints? Tell us about them!

REFLECT: Those who have passed away and are in Purgatory can do nothing to help themselves. They are very dear to the heart of God and depend on the great mercy of Jesus and Mary to help shorten their time in Purgatory. We trust in the love and mercy of God for all those who have passed away. But we can also help those who have passed by offering our good acts, our suffering, and our prayers to lessen their time in Purgatory. (CCC 1031-1032)

Catholic Tradition holds that Jesus appeared to St. Gertrude the Great and gave to her a prayer to recite that would release a vast number of souls from Purgatory every time that it was said. During your prayer, go around and pray for specific family, friends, or people who you know that have died. When someone shares the name of a person, let the group respond with the prayer of "Lord, let them see your face."

Close with the Pray The Prayer of St. Gertrude found in your journal.

LIVE IT! Jesus showed us the importance of choosing the right friends and people to have around us. This week, as a family, think of the people who help and support your family. Choose one (or more) to show your appreciation for their friendship by leaving a note on their front door letting them know why you are thankful they are in your life.