

CHEAT CODE

How Do I Get to Heaven?

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

This final Edge Night of the *Game Over* series presented your son or daughter with a variety of information, including spiritual and practical suggestions for getting to heaven and supporting others through fear of death and losing loved ones. Small groups rotated through four mini-teachings, each followed by a discussion. The topics covered were the scriptural promises of getting to heaven, non-believers and heaven, death by suicide, and grief. Your child's Weekly Challenge is to choose someone close to them and tell that person they love them.

MAIN IDEAS

- God desires all people to live eternally in heaven, and the Church prays that no one will be lost. The Bible gives us a playbook for getting to heaven that includes Baptism, Eucharist, faith, and following the will of God.
- Even though death is a natural end to mortal life, the permanence of the loss can be overwhelming. However, Jesus is with us through all life experiences and provides support and comfort through our Catholic faith and community during times of grief and fear.
- By growing in virtue and faith and receiving God's grace, we prepare ourselves each day for eternal life in heaven.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

"The Church prays that no one should be lost: 'Lord, let me never be parted from you.' If it is true that no one can save himself, it is also true that God 'desires all men to be saved' (1 Tim 2:4), and that for him 'all things are possible' (Mt 19:26)." (CCC 739)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What stood out the most in this Edge Night?
- What did you learn throughout this series?
- How can our family learn and grow from what you learned during this series?

LOADING SCREEN

What Is Purgatory?

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

This Edge Night began with an active game and transitioned into the teaching. Then, a “Kid Talk” video introduced a small group activity during which youth decorated a cake. Next, a small group discussion included Scripture examination and further exploration of purgatory and the concept of waiting, during which the cake remained a centerpiece for the small group. Youth then prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet – a powerful prayer for the deceased and dying – and were encouraged to pray for the intercession of the saints. At the conclusion of the Edge Night, small groups finally ate their cakes. Your child’s Weekly Challenge is to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at home, an activity that could include the entire family.

MAIN IDEAS

- Purgatory is a final purification that allows those who die in God’s grace to achieve the holiness needed in heaven. God permits death as a consequence of free will, and Jesus Christ transforms the curse of death into a blessing.
- Purgatory is temporary and is different from the suffering of hell; however, the souls in purgatory are not united with Jesus and therefore filled with longing.
- The Catholic Church has appointed powerful intercessors – such as Mary and St. Joseph – and provided impactful prayers – such as the Divine Mercy Chaplet – to pray for those who have died. Our prayers in union with those of the whole Church make a difference.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

“The forgiveness of sin and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment of sin, but temporal punishment of sin remains. While patiently bearing sufferings and trials of all kinds and, when the day comes, serenely facing death, the Christian must strive to accept this temporal punishment of sin as a grace.” (CCC 1473)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When do you find it difficult to wait? What do you like to do as you wait for a short time (e.g., waiting in line, waiting for an activity to begin)? A long time (e.g., waiting for a school vacation or while on a road trip)?
- How can our family more often incorporate intercessory prayer?
- Who can we pray for today?

CONNECTION TIMED OUT

Is Hell Real and Who Is There?

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

The topic of hell and who is there can be scary for middle school youth. Therefore, this Edge Night carefully and sensitively addressed this topic and provided facts that reminded the youth of their role in determining their eternal life. A fun, active game played in relative darkness broke the ice and prepared for the teaching. Following the teaching, a core member provided your son or daughter a Reaction Card to fill out anonymously, and the answers from the youth cards guided the small group discussion. This Edge Night's prayer experience was an Examination of Conscience based on Matthew 25 and the seven vices with their opposing virtues. Tying our judgment to works of mercy, your child's Weekly Challenge is to perform an act of kindness.

MAIN IDEAS

- Hell is eternal life without God in a state of perpetual suffering separated forever from goodness, beauty, joy, and love.
- God does not "send" anyone to hell, just as God does not force anyone to love Him. Our eternal life is a result of how we use our free will during our earthly life.
- A sinful, selfish life will develop a soul unable to recognize love at the final judgment. Caring for our neighbors reminds us of our dependence on others and God and keeps us on the path to heaven.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me'." (Matthew 25:40)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

"God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a willful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end. In the Eucharistic liturgy and in the daily prayers of her faithful, the Church implores the mercy of God, who does not want 'any to perish, but all to come to repentance'." (CCC 1037)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What is a mortal sin?
- How can our family better care for our neighbors?
- Do you have anything you still want to talk about regarding the topic of this Edge Night?

LEVELED UP

What is Heaven Like?

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

What do you think of when you imagine heaven – fluffy white clouds, angels playing harps, pearly gates? This fun Edge Night began with a small group activity that transitioned into the teaching about heaven, where youth were invited to imagine heaven as a state of perpetual happiness. The small group activity included True/False statements about heaven followed by a focused discussion expanding upon the answer. Then, your son or daughter prayed a Litany of Saints and Blesseds that highlighted young and modern saints as models for living a life focused on heaven. Your child's Weekly Challenge is to learn more about one of the saints from the litany – St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Kolkata, Bl. Miguel Pro, St. Theresa "Juanita" of Los Andes, Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, Bl. Chiara Badano, or Bl. Carlo Acutis.

MAIN IDEAS

- Heaven is eternal life with God in a state of perpetual happiness and satisfaction.
- We see God face to face in heaven, where we are with Jesus and the blessed community of angels and saints. God sees us completely, and we see God completely, allowing us to be completely consumed by love.
- We can ask for the prayers of the communion of saints in heaven.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

"Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him; they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 22:1-5)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

"How great will your glory and happiness be, to be allowed to see God, to be honored with sharing the joy of salvation and eternal light with Christ your Lord and God, . . . to delight in the joy of immortality in the Kingdom of heaven with the righteous and God's friends." (CCC 1028)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you imagine heaven? How is this different from before the Edge Night?
- What does "perpetual happiness" mean?
- Which saint or blessed do you want to learn more about?

DAMAGE

Why Does God Allow Suffering and Death?

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

This Edge Night examined one of life's most perplexing questions. First, your son or daughter played a fun, active game to prepare for listening and discussion. Then, following the teaching, a small group process debunked the myth that God causes suffering and emphasized the constant presence of God, even in times of hardship. Finally, the prayer activity provided youth an opportunity to pray for those suffering or who have died, lighting a candle for a particular person. Your child's Weekly Challenge is to memorize Wisdom 1:13.

MAIN IDEAS

- God created humans with free will to live in a state of harmony with no suffering or death. However, when Adam and Eve committed the first sin, death entered the world.
- God permits death as a consequence of free will, and Jesus Christ transforms the curse of death into a blessing.
- It is natural to fear death with all its uncertainty and finality, yet when we accept that our earthly lives are temporary, we can stop worrying and start living for Christ.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

"God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living." (Wisdom 1:13)

CATECHISM REFERENCE

"Death is a consequence of sin. The Church's Magisterium, as authentic interpreter of the affirmations of Scripture and Tradition, teaches that death entered the world on account of man's sin. Even though man's nature is mortal God had destined him not to die. Death was therefore contrary to the plans of God the Creator and entered the world as a consequence of sin. 'Bodily death, from which man would have been immune had he not sinned' is thus 'the last enemy' of man left to be conquered." (CCC 1008)

FAMILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What helps you through difficult times?
- How can our family help others in their suffering?
- Share your thoughts about suffering and death.

GAME OVER

Questions About Death

DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILY,

Google searches related to the question “What happens when I die?” skyrocketed in popularity during the Covid pandemic. People are wrestling with mortality and how God fits into the picture. Therefore, we will be exploring questions about death with the middle school youth in detail at Edge. The *Game Over* Edge Night series approaches this serious topic in an age-appropriate way to present the teachings of the Catholic Church.

GAME OVER

Game Over is an Edge Night series about death and eternal life that presents the teachings of the Catholic Church in a hopeful way that encourages living a full, holy life. Death is a vast and often intimidating topic, but it will be presented in a way that aims to empower middle school youth with knowledge and prayer tools. The content of this Edge series will be presented through the theme of video games, which provides fun and joy. This presentation will maintain engagement and deliver this critical material in an approachable and impactful way for middle school youth.

This series contains the following Edge Nights:

1. RESPAWN?

What Happens When I Die?

2. DAMAGE

Why Does God Allow Suffering and Death?

3. LOADING SCREEN

What Is Purgatory?

4. LEVELED UP

What Is Heaven Like?

5. CONNECTION TIMED OUT

Is Hell Real during this Edge series and Who Is There?

6. CHEAT CODE

How Do I Get to Heaven?

Each Edge Night is complete on its own and not dependent upon youth attending the previous Edge Nights to understand and participate fully. Some of the topics explored may be sensitive for some youth, including, but not limited to, discussions about suicide. Given the sensitivity and gravity of such a topic, we want to encourage you to reach out with any questions, concerns, or conversations about family dynamics that may affect your son or daughter.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to partner with you in the Catholic formation of your child. We will not shy away from serious and heavy topics. We hope this series provides opportunities to continue these meaningful conversations at home.