

Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year

Imagine Heaven

INTRODUCTION

The Sadducees were a group of priests who held the most important positions in the Jewish church. They did not believe in life after death and were displeased that so many people were listening to Jesus and believing what he told them.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song.

SORRY

God is our father and we are his children. He is slow to anger and always ready to forgive us. Close your eyes and listen carefully to these words:

Do not be afraid;
God will always love you.
Whatever you have done,
God will always love you.
As a father loves his child,
God will always love you.
Come back to him and know,
God's love lasts forever.

Now spend a few moments speaking to God in our hearts and making our peace with him.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (LUKE 20:27-36)

The Sadducees wanted to trick Jesus so they asked him this question, "If a woman's husband dies, and she marries his brother who also dies, which man will be her husband when she is dead and they all meet again in the next life?"

Jesus answered them, "In this life they may have been husband and wife, but in the next life they will all be children of God. After the resurrection from the dead, those who are chosen will never die again, and they will share everlasting life and happiness together with the angels in heaven."

DISCUSSION

The Sadducees were very harsh towards Jesus and disagreed with most of his teachings. They did not believe in the resurrection or life after death. They asked this question about a woman and her husbands to try to make Jesus look foolish.

What does the word "resurrection" mean? It means to rise again and come back to life. Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus every Sunday. Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, and so we celebrate his resurrection in a special way on that day.

Because Jesus conquered death and rose from the dead, everyone who has died will be brought back to life. Jesus explained to the Sadducees that our heavenly lives will be very different to our lives on earth. Anyone chosen to share everlasting happiness with God in heaven will become a child of God and will not be concerned with the worries of their earthly lives.

Sometimes people feel afraid of the unknown, but Jesus has promised us that heaven is a place of eternal peace and happiness, close to God. Perhaps we find it difficult to imagine; but if we think of that place we would most like to be, doing what makes us happiest, then maybe we can imagine a little bit of heaven.

ACTIVITY

Ask the children to spend a few moments thinking about their idea of heaven and what would make them happiest. Ask them to draw a picture of their idea. Pin the pictures to a bulletin board or tape on a large piece of cardboard with the caption "Heaven is..." and encourage each child to explain their picture to the rest of the group.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life."
Let us pray for all those who have died,
that they will be raised
to everlasting life and happiness.

