

Lesson Plan for Lesson 15

The Last Things

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 15, “The Last Things,” in the handbook.
- Gather baskets, one for each group of three or four; and a paper clip and glue stick for each participant.
- For each young person, make six ½-x-3-inch strips of the same color of paper, six ½-by-2-inch strips of a second color of paper, and six ½-by-1-inch strips of a third color of paper (eighteen strips total for each participant). Clip the sets of strips together, and place the sets in the baskets, distributing them as evenly as possible.
- On a sheet of newsprint, write the following:
(color of 3-inch strip): very well
(color of 2-inch strip): somewhat
(color of 1-inch strip): a little bit
- Make copies of the handout “The Wheel of Life” (Document #: TX003389), one for each young person.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a prayer for the dead. **Ask** them to find the Pray It! “Prayer for the Dead,” on page 159 in the handbook. **Invite** the young people to think of someone they know who has died, and then **lead** the participants in praying together the prayer at the end of the sidebar.

Study It! (40 to 50 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. Resurrection of the Dead

1. **Invite** the young people to write down all the words they associate with death. **Ask** them to do this in silence. After about 5 minutes, **invite** them to share their stories about losing someone they have loved. **Suggest** that those who have not lost a friend, relative, or pet could think about events in the world that would help them to imagine similar feelings and experiences.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the section, “The Resurrection of the Dead,” on pages 158–160 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 3 on the handout “Lesson 15 Summary” (Document #: TX003388).



3. **(Optional) Invite** questions and observations on the content. You might also have the young people discuss the question, How does the Church’s approach to death help you to grieve the loss of your loved ones?

B. The Final Judgment

1. **Ask** the young people to write down the name of one person from their family or someone they know—living or dead—who they believe is going, or has gone, to Heaven. **Tell** them to write down all the good qualities of this person. **Invite** volunteers to share the qualities they wrote down, and record these on the board.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “The Final Judgment” and “Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory,” on pages 160–165 in the handbook. The content covers points 4 through 9 on the handout “Lesson 15 Summary.”
3. **(Optional)** After the participants have finished the reading, **direct** them to the Reflect questions on pages 162 and 164. Use the questions to **lead** a discussion.

C. The Communion of Saints

Direct the young people to read the section “The Communion of Saints,” on pages 165–166 in the handbook. The content covers points 10 through 11 on the handout “Lesson 15 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (10 to 15 minutes)

1. **Direct** the participants to form groups of three or four, and give each group a basket of paper strips. Give each participant a copy of the handout “The Wheel of Life” (Document #: TX003389) and a glue stick.
Explain the task as follows:
 - Because we are called to be living saints every day of our lives, you are going to rate yourself in six areas of your life, using the chart on the newsprint to determine your ratings.
 - Take a set of paper strips from the basket. After I read a question, select a strip that corresponds to how you would rate yourself in this area of your life. Write on the strip the area I emphasize. (*See the bolded word in each question.*)
 - Then glue the strips of paper to a spoke on the wheel of the handout. If the spoke is too short, then position the paper so the spoke connects to the hub at the center of the wheel.
2. **Ask** the following questions:
 - How well do you live the life Jesus calls you to in your relationship with **family**?
 - How well do you live the life Jesus calls you to in your relationship with **friends**?
 - How well do you live the life Jesus calls you to in your relationship with those who are **poor**?
 - How well do you live the life Jesus calls you to in the way you spend **money**?
 - How well do you live the life Jesus calls you to in the way you use your **time**?
 - How well do you live the life Jesus calls you to in the way you use your **gifts**?



3. After all the young people have glued their spokes into place, **ask** them to assess the strength of their wheels. For every short spoke, **ask** them to think of something they can do to improve that area of their life and write it in the white space between the end of the spoke and the wheel. **Invite** everyone to take their wheels home as a reminder of what they need to do to answer God's call to holiness.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **lead** a litany of the saints by asking the young people to take turns calling out the name of a saint and an attribute, such as "Saint Francis, friend to the poor." If they need help thinking of a saint, have them use the Catholic Quick Facts section "Patron Saints and Their Causes," in the back of the handbook. After each young person's statement, the entire group should respond, "Pray for us."

