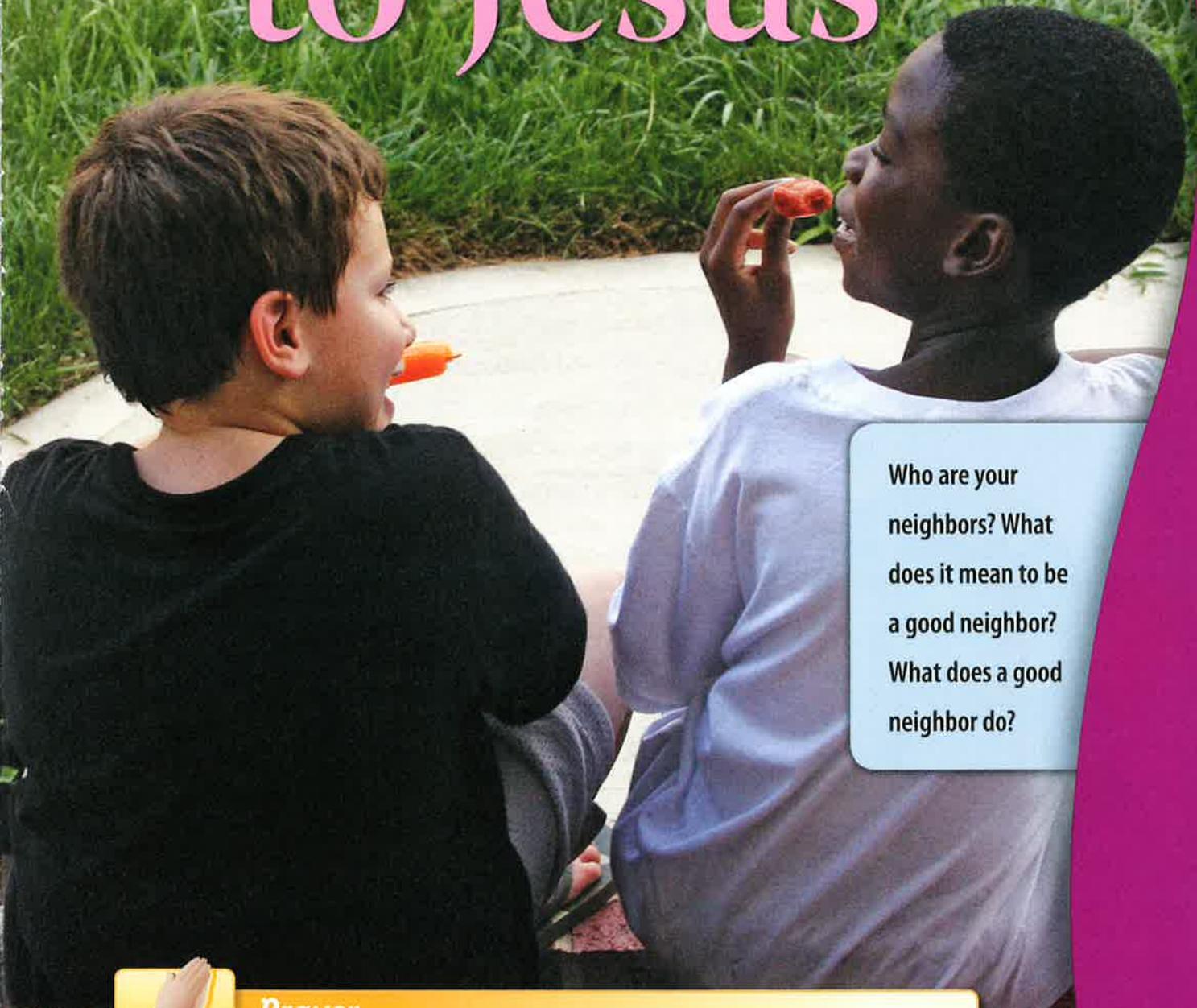


The Way to Jesus



Who are your neighbors? What does it mean to be a good neighbor? What does a good neighbor do?



Prayer

Jesus, help me be a good, loving neighbor.

The Meaning of Judgment

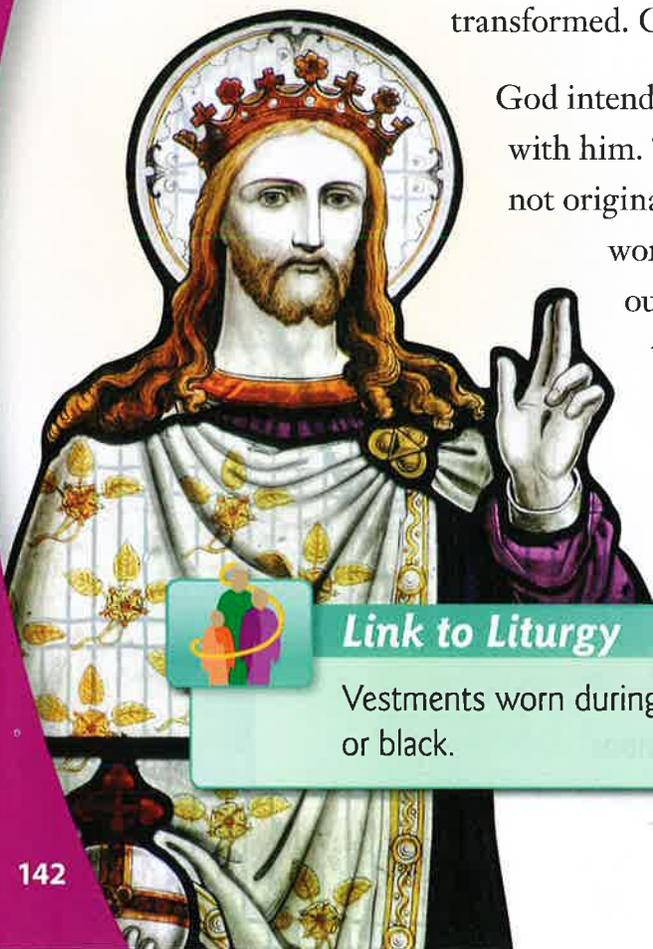
During our human life, we can either accept or reject God's grace. When we die we will be judged according to our works and faith. As a result of this particular judgment, a person may be united with God in Heaven, may undergo purification in **Purgatory** before being united with God, or, because of his or her choices, may enter **Hell**, which is total separation from God.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus speaks of the final judgment that everyone will face before God. It describes how all people will need to answer to God for the decisions they have made in life. At the Last Judgment, the Kingdom of God will come into its fullness, and the material universe itself will be transformed. God will then be "all in all."

God intends for all people to live in eternal glory with him. The Church teaches that death was not originally part of God's plan but entered the world through human sin. While in death our souls are separated from our bodies, the soul will be reunited with the body at the end of time.



Crossing into Purgatory, illustration from Dante's *Divine Comedy*.



Link to Liturgy

Vestments worn during funeral rites may be white, violet, or black.

We Pray for Those in Purgatory

Purgatory in Catholic belief is the continuation of the journey to achieve complete union with God—a continuation that occurs after death. The person has been saved and is a member of the Communion of Saints, but the union is still imperfect because of the effect of sin. Purgatory is the final step before complete union with God in Heaven.

As believers we can help ourselves and those in Purgatory on the final journey to God through **indulgences**. Indulgences lessen the punishment due for sins that have been forgiven and are the help we receive to continue to say yes to God and to choose to live the way Jesus taught. Through prayer we also believe that we can intercede with God for those who have died and ask for indulgences on their behalf so that they may be united with God.

To receive an indulgence, a person says a designated prayer such as the Rosary or takes part in a pilgrimage. A person can also receive indulgences for doing good works. The use of indulgences is a voluntary practice in the Church.



Did You Know?



A Holy Year is a special time of joy and pardon. Holy Years occur every 25 years. During a Holy Year, people can earn special indulgences through prayer and visits to churches. Many people make pilgrimages to Rome or to local churches designated as places of pilgrimage.

Young people attend World Youth Day in 2000, the most recent Holy Year.

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Prayer

Living the Corporal Works of Mercy

Jesus tells us good ways to treat people. They are listed here from the Gospel of Matthew. Take a moment to reflect on each of these things Jesus calls us to do.

Feed the hungry.

Give drink to the thirsty.

Welcome the stranger.

Clothe the naked.

Care for the ill.

Visit the imprisoned.

adapted from Matthew 25:35–36

Jesus is with you now. Talk to him about the good actions you already do for people. For example, tell him how you feed the hungry or welcome the stranger.

Ask Jesus for help to recognize times when you can do good deeds and show kindness to others. Ask him also for the courage and strength to carry out the actions. Listen for his answer.



Knowing How to Treat Your Neighbor

Think about the ways of treating people that Jesus described in the Gospel story from Matthew. How can you do these same types of things?

Add at least four ideas to the list below.

- ▶ You help to get your little sister ready for school because your mom is busy.
- ▶ You go out of your way to welcome new students in your class and include them in activities.
- ▶ You speak up for someone when others are saying negative things about him or her.



Things I can do ...



Reading God's Word

For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct.

Matthew 16:27

Faith Summary

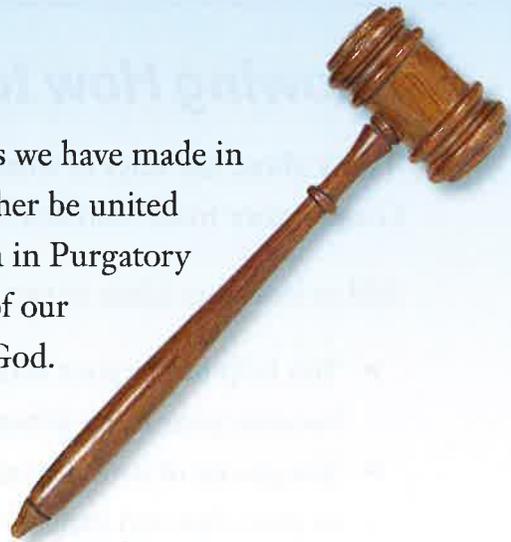
After death we will be judged on the choices we have made in life. As a result of this judgment, we will either be united with God in Heaven, undergo a purification in Purgatory before being united with God, or, because of our choices, enter Hell—total separation from God.

Words I Learned

Hell indulgences Purgatory

Ways of Being Like Jesus

Jesus befriended the outcast. *Offer friendship and kindness to someone in your class who does not have many friends.*



Prayer

Jesus, thank you for loving me and teaching me how to love you by acting with loving kindness toward other people.



With My Family

Activity As a family, visit a local nursing home or hospital to visit with those who are sick or lonely. Bring books to read aloud or drawings you made as gifts for the recipients.

Faith on the Go Ask one another: *If someone were to write an article about you in the newspaper, what kind acts would he or she describe?*

Family Prayer *Lord God, we want to remain close to you always. Help us to make right choices in our lives so that we will live forever in your loving presence.*