

20 Questions for Confirmation

Q4. Are the saints among God's faithful? What happens when we die? What about heaven? By Heather Roth Johnson

All Saints Sunday? Why do Lutherans celebrate it? Aren't Saints a Roman Catholic thing? All Saints Sunday is the day the church remembers the faithful who died during the past year. For some churches, it is the day to celebrate those who died for the faith, or martyrs of the church. But for Lutherans who believe people are both saints and sinners, we celebrate the faithful who died. Do you know anyone who has passed away in the last year? Share stories about the saints in your lives.

Introduce the Question: Yes! Saints are among God's faithful, but the question that comes out of that is "What happens when we die?" "What about heaven?"

Video: [What happens when we die?](#)

Video Response: What do you think about the last kid, and what they said? "All people go to heaven, and your soul is remembered?" What do you think that means? How and where are people's souls remembered?

Something to think about with death: Knowing what happens when we die is something that we will all find the answer to someday. Most people don't like to talk about death. It's painful or scary. Here are three facts we know about death:

- Death is irreversible: There is no medicine or surgery that fixes death.
- Death is universal: It happens to everyone - there is no way around it.
- Death is final: The heart stops beating, no brain activity, and no air movement.

Response: Why do you think people don't want to talk about death? How does understanding death make you feel? Scared? Nervous? What do you think happens when we die?

What does God say? God confronts death head on. There is nowhere that God has not already been before, and that includes death. In fact, God counteracts death with God's love. Check this out:

- God's love is irreversible: No matter if we want it or not, "God is love" is with you. (1 John 4:7-8)
- God's love is universal: It happens to everyone! (Jude 1:21)

- God's love is final: Because Jesus died on a cross, God's love has claim over you. (John 3:16)

Response: Read each Bible verse, and discuss it with the theme? Does knowing that God's love has the final word in your life put your mind at ease about death? Why or why not?

Something to think about with Heaven? Karl Barth once wrote, "Yes there is hell, but no one is in it!" That's because Jesus died on a cross, was placed in the tomb, and raised again to new life. This is the promise for all people that we will have the same! Jesus defeated hell so that we may all have access to heaven. What we know about heaven is very little:

- Heaven is described as a place that people ascended to including Jesus, Elisha, and Noah's father.
- No GPS coordinates are available.
- Jesus in John 14:1-6 tells us that he is going ahead of us to prepare a place for us in his father's house.
- Some think Jesus is our heaven, and wherever Jesus is, heaven will be.

Response: What about heaven? What do you think it will be like? Are there any right or wrong answers about heaven? What do you think about Karl Barth's quote concerning heaven? What do you think about Jesus as heaven? How do you describe Jesus as heaven?

Prayer: Ask for prayer requests about people students know who have passed away, if there is any fear about death, and prayers of comfort.

Dear God:

Today we pray for the saints who have passed away. People we have loved: [name them here].

Today we pray that you ease our minds about death. We know it happens to all people, but sometimes we are scared. [Any other concerns, name them here.]

Today, we pray that you comfort us, and help us to remember the promise of heaven. [Any other prayer concerns.]

Amen.