

GROUP
1

HEAVEN AND OUR CHOICE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Use the essays in your Parent's Guide to help answer these questions.

1. What does the word “beatitude” mean and how is its meaning related to the goal of human existence? How does St. Augustine describe beatitude?
2. God provides “signs” along the way to help us get to be with Him in Heaven for eternity. What are these signs and where do we find them?
3. In the Old Testament, we read that God spoke the “Ten Words” or Commandments as He revealed Himself to the Israelites. What does this tell us about the importance of the Ten Commandments?
4. Jesus did not do away with the Old Law, the Ten Commandments, but instead, He perfected it. How do the Beatitudes, given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, fulfill all that was promised in the Old Law of the Ten Commandments?

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5. It is easy to live for the moment and make choices that seem to promise happiness now. The Beatitudes promise a very different happiness than what the world has to offer. How do the Beatitudes show us the real meaning of happiness?

6. On our journey, God does not leave us to ourselves. How do you feel sustained by God in your personal life?

7. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

8. What are we as human persons able to do that other creatures cannot? What sets us apart?

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13. We inherited Original Sin from our first parents. What are the implications of this inheritance for us?

14. God sent Jesus, Our Lord, to restore our friendship with God. How does God make salvation available to all people through Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection?

15. God gave us free will, so we have the ability to choose good or evil. Often, selfishly, we tend to choose our own ways over God's, thinking it will make us happier. How does this affect us now and how will it affect us in the long run? Which choice will ultimately make us happy?