

Chapter 24

A New Creation

Behold, I make all things new. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.

Revelation 21:5,6

For the Parents:

In chapter 24 your child learned to:

- See his or her life as a journey toward happiness with God in heaven
- Conclude that death is not the end of life
- Recognize the need to treat every person as they would treat Jesus

Most people do not have much trouble talking about heaven, but sometimes they do not know quite what to say about purgatory and hell. Pope John Paul II gave a series of talks about heaven, hell, and purgatory in the summer of 1999. Here are some things he said: The terms *heaven*, *hell*, and *purgatory* do not indicate places, but conditions or states of existence. Heaven is for “those who have welcomed God into their lives and have sincerely opened themselves to his love, at least at the moment of death...” Purgatory is “the process of purification for those who die in the love of God but are not completely imbued with that love. Before we enter into God’s kingdom, every trace of attachment to evil must be eliminated, every imperfection of the soul corrected. Purification must be complete.” Hell is permanent separation from God. “God is the infinitely good and merciful Father. But man can choose to reject his love and forgiveness once and for all, even at the last moment, thus separating himself forever” from God. “Hell is the ultimate consequence of sin.”

With Your Child:

1. Write your own secret of success for living as a Christian.
2. Read about Saint Martin of Tours on the Review and Explore page.