

Faith Alive: Following the Path to Heaven (Part 1)

In Jesus' plan of love, He gave us the seven sacraments so we can grow in holiness.

- Look at page 125 of the Student Text. It's a map of our journey to Heaven with God.
- There are seven sacraments He gives to strengthen us at every stage of our lives, from birth until death.

Students can follow the journey to Heaven in the Student Text. Optional: Have the students form a line behind you at the door with their Student Texts and writing utensils in hand for a version of Follow the Leader.

I will be the leader of our journey, but I am actually following Jesus!

- To start our journey, we first need three sacraments that make us part of the Church!
- **What are these sacraments called?** (*Sacraments of initiation.*)
- One of these makes us children of God and gives us virtues to be holy!
- **What sacrament of initiation do we need first?** (*Baptism.*) Look at the beginning of the map where the child is standing. Look at the map key. **What letter is Baptism?** (*D.*)

Optional: Lead the students outside (or to the gym). Take a roundabout way to the church doing the things below along the way.

Stop! Jesus wants to strengthen us with His Holy Spirit so we can share the Good News with everyone.

- **Can we do it without the Holy Spirit?** (*No.*)
- **What second sacrament of initiation do we need?** (*Confirmation.*) What letter is Confirmation? (*A.*)
- Now we have the strength to tell everyone about Jesus! Repeat after me: **"Hear the Good News!"** (Repeat.)

Optional: Walk fast and begin walking in large circles or off the path.

Stop! We're not following Jesus anymore, and we've hurt our friendship with Him.

- **What sacrament do we need to heal our friendship with Him?** (*Reconciliation.*) **What letter is Reconciliation?** (*G.*)
- Repeat after me: **"Jesus, forgive me, for I have sinned."** (Repeat.)
- We have grace to not sin again! Our virtues are strengthened in us!

Faith Alive: Following the Path to Heaven (Part 2)

Optional: Slow your pace and act tired.

Stop! We're starting to get tired. We need Jesus' Body and Blood to receive more of God's grace and strengthen the virtues!

- **What third sacrament of initiation do we need?** (*Eucharist.*) **What letter is Eucharist?** (E.)
- Now we are closer to Jesus' love and friendship and can continue!

Optional: After walking a bit, stop to sit down as if you are becoming ill.

Stop! We are becoming very, very sick!

- **What sacrament of healing do we need?** (*Anointing of the Sick.*) **What letter is Anointing of the Sick?** (B.) **What does this sacrament always heal?** (*The soul.*)
- Anointing of the Sick heals our souls. If it is God's will, it can heal our physical sickness too!

Optional: Stop in front of the church.

Stop! We're older, and Jesus is asking us to serve the Church in a special way.

- **What two sacraments could Jesus be calling us to?** (*Holy Orders or Marriage.*)
- **Which sacrament gives men a special grace to give the sacraments to the Church?** (*Holy Orders.*) **What letter is Holy Orders?** (C.)
- In Marriage, a man and woman love each other like Jesus loves His Church. **What letter is Marriage?** (F.)
- **No matter which vocation you are called to, where does God lead you to?** (*Heaven.*)

Our journey to Heaven is a long one. So we always need our sins forgiven and food for the journey.

- **What sacraments can we receive over and over again to strengthen us on our journeys?** (*Reconciliation and Eucharist.*) Circle E and G on your maps.
- If we are very sick or dying, it is important to receive Anointing of the Sick to prepare our souls for Heaven (see CCC 1523). Circle B on your maps.
- If we are dying, it is also important to receive food for the journey. **What sacrament gives us food for the journey?** (*The Eucharist.*)
- The seven sacraments are there for every step of our journey to Heaven with Jesus.