

General Church Education



Paths to Heaven

Divine Love and Wisdom 140, 145;

Heaven and Hell 519

Lesson 22

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

PATHS TO HEAVEN

DIVINE LOVE AND WISDOM 140, 145; HEAVEN AND HELL 519

The whole of revelation, the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Writings are designed by the Lord to give us the information that we need to make choices in our lives that will take us on a path to heaven. His loving plan for us is that we should find true happiness by following Him. For we are told, "Everyone is created so that he may enter heaven. This is the purpose of creation." *Divine Providence* 324

Today's lesson tells about how our lifetime choices determine our final dwelling place, either in heaven or in hell. It also tells about some of the "geographic" details of the spiritual world. The Writings are full of amazing descriptions of heaven, hell and the world of spirits, where we first awaken into eternal life.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We can look for ways to help children understand that all actions have consequences. Kind acts have helpful consequences and bring the joy of the Lord's love to all. Unkind acts bring unhappy consequences to all. As our children begin to understand this they will become more aware of the consequences of their own actions. They will become freer to choose actions in harmony with heaven.
- When we put the eternal values found in the Lord's Word into the center of our lives, we can help children begin to see how to do the same. When we talk about how we use the Lord's Word to guide us in our choices, we can help our children learn the tools to do the same.

FROM THE WRITINGS

Everyone is born for heaven. People are accepted into heaven who accept heaven into themselves in this world. People who do not accept it are shut out. *Heaven and Hell* 420

The world of spirits is neither heaven, nor hell, but a place or state between the two. It is where we first arrive after death, being in due time either raised into heaven or cast into hell depending on our life in this world. *Heaven and Hell* 421

The world of spirits appears like a valley between mountains and rocks, with windings and elevations here and there. The gates and doors of the heavenly societies are visible to those only who are prepared for heaven; others cannot find them. The gates and doors of the hells also are visible only to those who are about to enter, to whom they are then opened. *Heaven and Hell* 429

PATHS TO HEAVEN

IMPORTANT IDEAS

There are three parts to the spiritual world: heaven, hell, the world of spirits.

The Lord wants everyone to live with Him as an angel in heaven after the death of the earthly body.

All angels were once people who lived a good life in this world.

The spiritual world is divided into three parts. There is heaven, which is a place of beauty where angels live close to the Lord. There is hell, which is far from the Lord and where devils live. There is also the world of spirits. The world of spirits is between heaven, above, and hell, below. Last time we read about waking up in the spiritual world after our earthly body dies. This happens in the world of spirits.

Immediately after death we come into a world of spirits that is halfway between heaven and hell. There we are prepared either for heaven or for hell, depending on the way we have lived. As long as we stay in this world, we are called "spirits." Anyone who has been brought up from this world into heaven is called an angel, and anyone who has been cast into hell is called a devil. *Divine Love and Wisdom* 140 (adapted)

After we have become accustomed to the world of spirits, we begin to make new friends. These friends are angels and other good spirits who teach us things we need to know so that we will be able to find our heavenly homes. If we look to the Lord in His Word and love the Lord and the neighbor, we are already beginning to find our way to our eternal home in heaven. We will continue on this "path" to heaven after death.

In the spiritual world, you can see roads. Some of them lead to heaven and some to hell. The roads that lead to hell are not visible to people who are going to heaven, and the roads that lead to heaven are not visible to people who are going to hell. There are more roads than you can count, roads leading to each heavenly community and to each hellish community. Each spirit sets out on the road that leads to the community that shares his or her own loves

and does not see the roads that lead in the other directions. *Divine Love and Wisdom* 145 (adapted)

What a miracle! We will not see any road but the one road that is the very right one that will take us to our spiritual home!

After spirits have been prepared for heaven, they are dressed in angelic clothing, usually white linen, taken to a path that leads up towards heaven, and turned over to guardian angels there. Then they are accepted by other angels and put in touch with their communities. The Lord then takes each angel to her or his community. When they arrive in their own communities, their inner natures are opened, and since they are in harmony with the inner natures of the angels who are members of that community, they are recognized instantly and accepted with joy. *Heaven and Hell* 519 (adapted)

When we think about the life of heaven, we can pray to the Lord that He will show us the "path of life" to heaven, while we are living in this world.



DISCUSSION

- Do you think that heaven will ever get too full to take in any more angels? ***(No!)*** Why do you think that will never happen? ***(Possible answers - The Lord wants everyone to go to heaven to be close to Him, He loves everyone and doesn't want anyone to go to hell, and He wants everyone to be happy to eternity.)***
- Do you remember some of the ways we have been taught to follow the Lord in this world? ***(By loving the Lord, by listening to His teachings in the Word and by doing what they teach.)***
- Do you remember some of the stories that teach us what is really good and true so that we will want to choose heaven in the spiritual world? Turn back in our book and look at the pictures to see if they help you remember some of the important heavenly lessons that we have learned. ***(Some of these lessons include - the Lord loves everyone, the holiness of the Word, the importance of obedience to Him, the Ten Commandments, True Marriage Love is forever, the importance of love to the Lord and to the neighbor, how to pray, we can trust in the power of the Lord, He came into the world so that we could know Him as our Savior.)***
- Close your eyes and imagine that you are going up a path with the Lord to find your heavenly home. Tell what beautiful things that you see along the way. What does your house look like? You can be sure that no matter how beautiful your imagined house may be, your real heavenly home is many more times as beautiful!



PATHS TO HEAVEN | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

One thing I have desired of the Lord,
That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the
Lord
All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple.

Psalm 27:4

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Songs

- Angel Song
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-angel-song/>
- Becoming an Angel
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-becoming-an-angel/>

Videos

- What Heaven Is Like (story)
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-what-heaven-is-like/>
- Angels Around Us (song)
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-angels-around-us-song/>

Projects

- Find Your Way Through the Maze
- Picture to color

Find Your Way through the Maze



Use your finger or a pencil. Start here and trace a path to a heavenly home. *Hint:* There is more than one way to heaven!



Recitation Award | Lessons 21, 22, 23, 24

