

General Church Education



What Do Angels Do?

Heaven and Hell 229-232, 387, 393, 399
Arcana Coelestia 4533, 5980

Lesson 23

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

WHAT DO ANGELS DO?

HEAVEN AND HELL 229-232, 387, 393, 399

ARCANA COELESTIA 4533, 5980

Angels love to serve the Lord. It is the joy of their lives. Our lesson for today will investigate some of the things that angels delight in doing in this service to the Lord. We will focus on the delight angels have in sharing with others and the great power that angels have to protect us.

The Writings show us the reality of the close relationship that people on earth have with both spirits and angels. Our enlightenment in spiritual matters and our freedom to choose to live a good life depend upon this relationship.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We can help children learn that heaven is a place of service to the Lord and the neighbor. We can also help them see that developing habits of useful service lays the foundation for the life of use in heaven. This is how the Lord gives everyone the opportunity to express their love for Him in a way that gives unending happiness.
- When we see our children helping others we can help them to recognize the heavenly delight they are sharing with the angels.

FROM THE WRITINGS

The joys of heaven and eternal happiness have to do with the state of a person's life. The state of heavenly life comes from love and wisdom. And because useful service is the containing vessel of both love and wisdom, the state of heavenly life comes from a combination of these two in useful service. *Conjugal Love* 10

Useful deeds are the principal ways of exercising charity and the principal means of worshipping the Lord. Going to church regularly, listening to sermons, and saying one's prayers are also necessary; but without the useful deeds they have no value at all, for they do not constitute a person's life but teach what that life ought to be like. The angels in heaven get nothing but happiness out of being useful; and they receive it in proportion to their usefulness. So true is this that to them usefulness is what makes heaven. *Arcana Coelestia* 7038

Because we have separated ourselves from heaven, the Lord has provided that there should be angels and spirits with each of us and that we should be governed by the Lord through them. *Heaven and Hell* 247

WHAT DO ANGELS DO?

IMPORTANT IDEAS

Angels have great power. All their power comes from the Lord.

Angels love to help the Lord. Heaven is a kingdom of happy service to others.

Angels are always with us, working to protect us from spiritual harm.

Angels do many different kinds of useful things because they love the Lord and the neighbor. They want to help others. Angels think less about themselves when they are doing useful things. They do not worry about "getting paid" for their jobs because the Lord gives them everything they need. However, the Lord does give them the happy feeling that comes from showing their love through helping people.

The delight of heaven is great because everyone there shares their blessings. Since everyone in heaven is like this, we can see how unlimited the happiness of heaven is.

There are more kinds of jobs in heaven than in the world. No matter how many angels are doing their jobs, they are all in the delight of their work and labor from a love of helpful service. In fact, the Lord gives angels everything they need. They have houses, clothing and food from the Lord. *Heaven and Hell* 399, 393 and 387 (adapted)



The Lord also sends angels and good spirits to be with every person on earth. Because they are near to us, we can share in their good thoughts and feelings. We can share their strength when we are scared or having a hard time choosing to be good. They help us fight evil thoughts, feelings and actions.

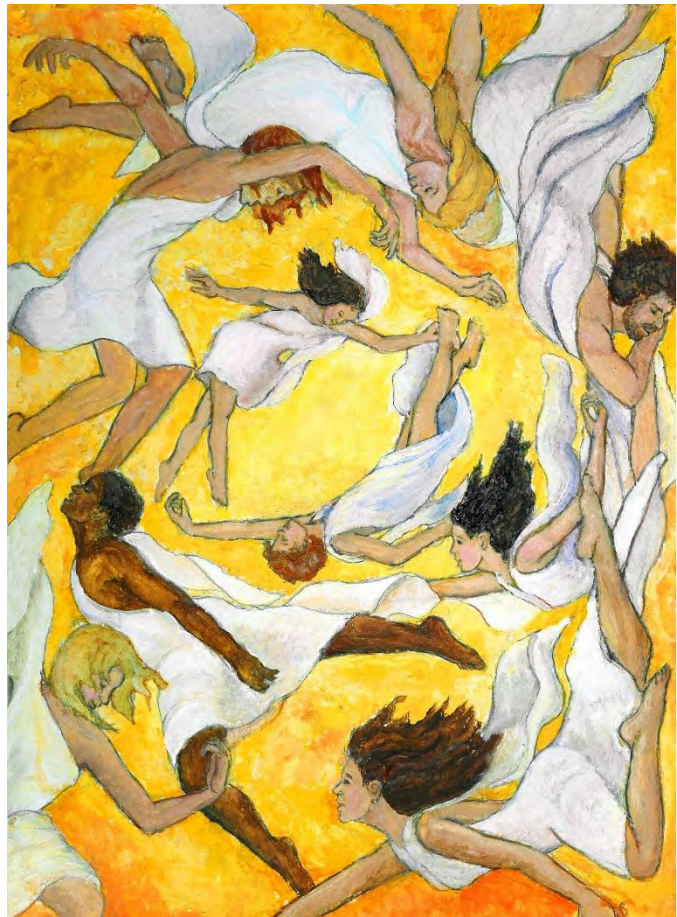
The Lord sends his angels to protect each one of us. The angels never leave us! Angels watch carefully to see what the evil spirits present with a person are trying to do. *Arcana Coelestia* 5980 (adapted)

If anything is in the way and needs to be removed because it is opposite to the Lord's Divine order, angels cast it down simply with their will and by a look. Thousands of evil spirits can be sent away by angels and cast down into hell.

It is hard to believe how great the power of angels in the spiritual world is. They look at devils whenever they realize that they are trying to leave their hells for the world of spirits with the intention of hurting others. When an evil spirit is looked at by the angels he falls into a faint, and no longer looks like a person. This lasts until the angel looks away.

The angels have no power of their own. All the power they have comes from the Lord. Angels take no credit for anything they do. They give all the praise and glory to the Lord. *Heaven and Hell* 229, 232 and 230; *Arcana Coelestia* 4533 (adapted)

The power of the angels comes from the Lord. The Lord wants us to know that He has given the angels this great power because He is our Heavenly Father. He wants to guard our spirits from harm. We never have to fight evil spirits alone. The Lord and the whole of the heavens are on our side! The angels praise the Lord for the power He has given them. When we think about how this power helps us we too can give praise to the Lord!



DISCUSSION

- Have you ever been able to help someone who was in trouble? Tell about some of the things that you do to help other people. (*Maybe a little brother or sister was sad and needed cheering up? Were you able to help? Maybe one of your parents or a friend needed you to help with a chore or a job around the house? Have you shared a toy or maybe a hug?*)
- Can you remember the warm feeling that you had when you helped make someone happy? Angels feel like that when they are helpful. We have those lovely feelings because angels are close to us and when we are helpful they love to share their heavenly feelings with us.
- Would you like to thank the angels who are with you as your guardians? What would you like to say to them? (*Answers will vary.*)
- Angels love to serve others because they want to make them happy. They aren't thinking about getting any reward for themselves.

WHAT DO ANGELS DO? | 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/>
- **Angels Around Us**
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-angels-around-us/>

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

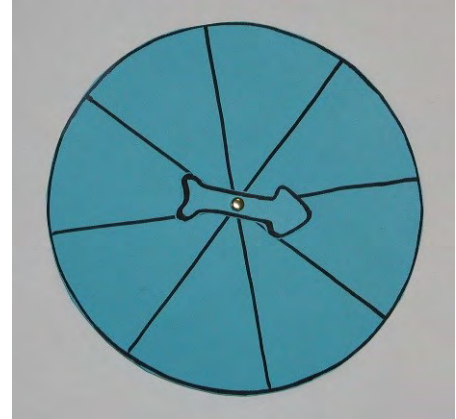
- Angelic Wheel Project
- Picture to color

Angelic Wheel Project

This project helps children think about how angels live in heaven and then consider how they can behave like angels every day.

Supplies needed

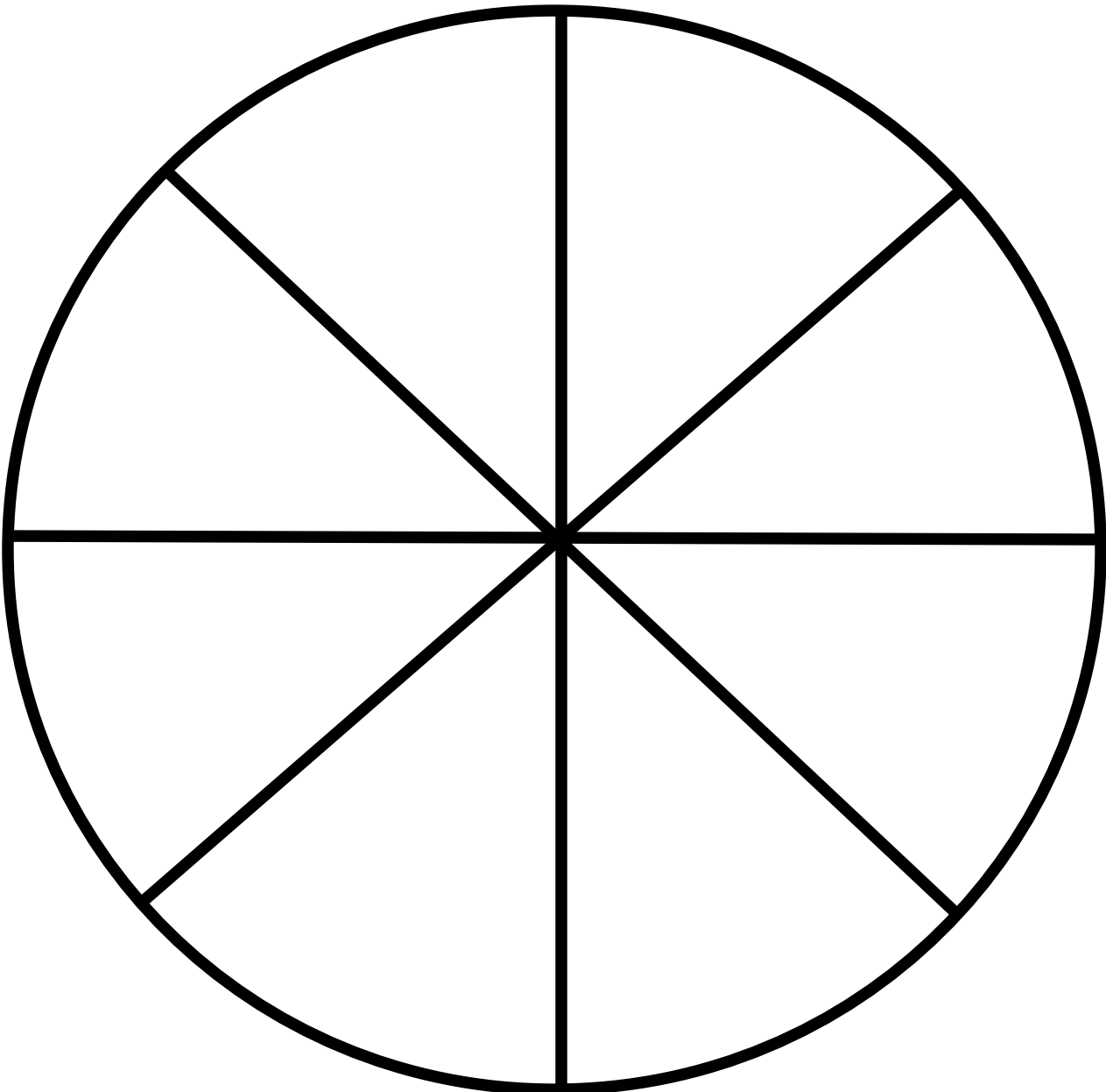
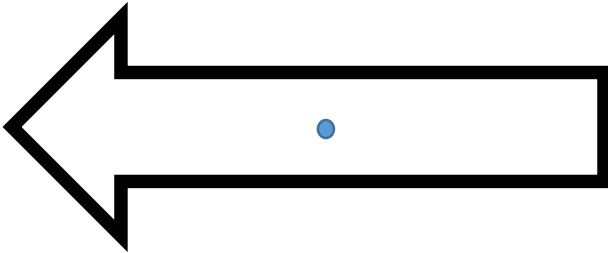
- 1 piece of stiff paper approx. 9"x12" (23cm x 30cm)
- 1 brass brad (paper fastener)
- pencil or thin-tipped marker
- scissors
- glue



Directions

1. Remember how delighted the angels are to do thoughtful things for others, and that they do not even need to be thanked? Sometimes they do nice things for others without anyone even knowing about it. It is fun to surprise others, isn't it? We are going to think of some kind things we can do for members of our family or friends and make an angelic wheel that shows them.
2. Glue the *Angelic Wheel Template* arrow and circle on to stiff paper. Cut them out.
3. Using a pencil or thin marker, write one kind thing you could do on each of the eight sections of the wheel, e.g. open a door, say a kind word, carry something, etc.
4. Attach the arrow to the center of the wheel with the brass brad. Turn it around several times to make it move more easily in the heavy paper. (*Hint:* not fastening it too tightly will also help it turn more easily.)
5. Each day you can spin the arrow and see where it stops on the circle. Try to think of someone you could help by doing the activity the arrow is pointing to.
6. When you say your prayers, thank the Lord for helping you to do something kind each day, just like the angels in heaven. Can you see why the angels are so happy? It makes us happy when we are thinking kindly about others and trying to be helpful. This is the road that leads to heaven.

Angelic Wheel Template





Recitation Award | Lessons 21, 22, 23, 24

