

General Church Education



Life in Heaven

Conjugal Love 11-14

Lesson 23

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

Life in Heaven

Conjugal Love 11-14

For Parents and Teachers

The Lord lovingly and carefully watches over us in both the natural and spiritual worlds. He provides for all our needs. In the spiritual world there are houses, food and clothing much like those that we have on earth. The big difference is that the things provided for those in the spiritual world exactly match the loves that they have developed within themselves during their natural life. Everyone who comes into heaven comes into the greatest joy of their heart (*Divine Providence* 254). Angels feel they have known the other angels in their society all their lives and that they are the best of friends because their loves are so similar (*Divine Providence* 339.4). Angels delight in their work from a love of useful service to others, not from a love of self or gain. Everything in heaven is beautiful and peaceful beyond description. The Lord teaches about the spiritual world so we will know that it is real and have hope of what is to come. The most important message in this lesson is that the joy of heaven begins within a person from loving the Lord and being useful to others.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord provides a safe and beautiful place in heaven that is perfectly suited for each angel.
- The angels' homes and clothing vary according to the kind of love they have for the Lord and their neighbor.
- The happiness of heaven is from being useful to others.

From the Writings

Since there are communities in heaven, with people living there as we do, they too have homes; and these vary depending on the state of life of each individual. Whenever I [Emanuel Swedenborg] have talked to angels face to face, I have been with them in their houses. Their houses were just like the houses on earth that we call homes, but more beautiful. They have chambers, suites, and bedrooms in abundance, and courtyards with gardens, flower beds, and lawns around them. When there is some concentration of people, the houses are adjoining, one near another, arranged in the form of a city with streets and lanes and public squares, just like the ones we see in cities on earth.

I have seen palaces in heaven that were so splendid as to be beyond description. The houses angels live in are not constructed as houses in our world are, but are given to them by the Lord, to each individual according to his acceptance of what is good and true. Whatever angels possess, they attribute to the Lord, and anything they need is given to them. See *Heaven and Hell* 183-184

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Words to Understand

mantle—a loose, sleeveless cloak or cape

tunic—a loose gown-like garment worn by men and women in ancient times

cummerbund—a wide sash worn at the waistband

porphyry—an Egyptian rock with crystals imbedded in a purple background

jasper—a beautiful green stone

lapis lazuli—a beautiful blue stone

The Truth about Heaven

What kinds of clothes do the angels wear? Do they eat food? Do they live in houses like we do? Most people have seen pictures of angels in books. Through the years many people have had ideas of what angels look like and how they live in heaven. In this lesson we will learn what the Lord teaches about heaven. He wants us to know about heaven so we will get a know what He has in store for us. Heaven is a beautiful place where we will live with the Lord when we have lived a good life on this earth. We can start doing this now.

Homes in Heaven

What kind of house would you live in if you could have any house you wanted? Would it be made of brick, stone, wood or something else? The Lord tells us that our heavenly home will be perfectly suited to and prepared for each of us. New angels walk around until they find a community that feels comfortable and go right to the house that was made just for them. They finds it beautiful, comfortable and has everything needed for happiness.

Some angels live in houses similar to ones on earth, but more beautiful! They have various rooms and are surrounded by lawns, gardens and flowerbeds. Some houses are close together in cities. Other angels live in magnificent palaces that glitter as if made of gold and precious stones. They are surrounded by parks where the plants and trees glisten as if made of silver and gold. Flowers are planted in beds with a rainbow of colors. Some angels live on mountains in tents that shine with a golden light. Let's read about some visitors who were shown a house in heaven. **Read *Conjugal Love 11-14* (parts following).**

Ten Visit Heaven

A voice from heaven said, "Choose ten people from the world of spirits to bring to us. The Lord will prepare them so they can visit our heaven for three days." So an angel chose ten people. They went up a steep path to a mountaintop where angels lived. The gates were opened for them and the angel guide hurried to report to the prince of that heavenly community. The prince's servants welcomed the visitors and showed them their rooms. They wanted to see the prince, but the angel told

them, “It is now morning. Visits are not allowed before noon. Until then people are working. But you are invited to lunch. You will sit down to dine with our prince. Meanwhile, I will take you into the palace. You will see magnificent and splendid things.”

The large palace was built of porphyry with a foundation of jasper. Six tall columns of lapis lazuli were in front of the entrance. The roof was covered with gold. Its high windows were the clearest crystal framed with gold. Inside the palace the visitors saw beautiful ornaments they could not describe. Carvings decorated the ceilings. They saw many other things not seen on earth. They were amazed. The angel said, “Do not marvel. The wonders you see were not made by any angel. The Maker of the Universe made these as a gift to our prince.”



Then the angel took them to the prince’s garden. At the entrance he said, “Look, the most magnificent garden in this heavenly society!” At first they only saw one tree. It was the tree of life. But when their eyes were opened, they saw trees loaded with flavorful fruits and covered with leafy vines. The tops of the trees swayed with fruits towards the tree of life in the center.

These trees were planted in a perfect spiral. One kind of tree followed another according to their fruits. The first trees were called trees of paradise, and they had many rich fruits. These trees do not exist in the world. Then came trees whose fruits can be used for oil. Next came trees whose fruits are used in making wine, then fragrant trees. And finally trees whose wood is used in building. This unending circle of trees had openings which led to flower gardens and lawns. The visitors exclaimed, “Look, a model of heaven!”

Was the prince’s home elegant? The Lord provides comfortable homes for all the angels. Our home in heaven will be a perfect fit for us and the things we love. We have been learning a lot about loves. Do you remember what the Lord said about the Two Great Commandments? These two laws tell us to love the Lord and our neighbor. During our life in this world we determine what kind of house we will live in to eternity. The greater our love for the Lord and others, the more beautiful our house will be.

Clothes and Food in Heaven

The Lord provides angels with clothes that are perfect for them. *Conjugal Love* describes the garments of an angel couple. The husband wore a hyacinth blue mantle with a white wool tunic underneath. His wife had a red robe and a tunic with beautiful needlework on it. *Conjugal Love* de-

scribes a prince who wore a long purple robe with embroidered silver stars. Under the robe there was a blue tunic of shiny silk. Around his waist was a cummerbund with the emblem of his community—an eagle caring for her young at the top of a tree. It was radiant with gold and diamonds around the edges.

Angels are given all the food they need to satisfy them and give them strength for the jobs they enjoy. Angels enjoy eating with each other. The Writings describe a lunch party given by a prince in heaven. “The prince’s visitors saw a table set with a gold pyramid holding three rows of saucers on which were cakes. Up through the middle of the pyramid gushed a fountain of nectar-like wine, filling the goblets. A golden pyramid held silver plates filled with food. The goblets were made of translucent gems. The prince invited them to say a prayer of praise to the Lord, then they sat down. The prince said, ‘Take a plate from its serving ring and a saucer from the pyramid.’ They did, and new plates and saucers appeared immediately! Their goblets were kept filled with wine by the fountain. So they ate and they drank.” See *Conjugal Love* 14, 16 (parts)



Joy in Heaven

Doing work brings great happiness in heaven. We may think it would be fun to play all the time, but we would soon become bored. Everyone in heaven works and finds great delight in it. The prince in the story above told his visitors that all angels in heaven do some kind of useful service. He said that useful service is to do the duties of a job faithfully, honestly and carefully.

Heavenly jobs are similar to jobs in the natural world. Many angels help princes rule cities. There are ministers and teachers, mothers who care for little children, and people who look after sheep and cattle. One of the most important jobs for angels is to watch over people on earth. When evil spirits attack, angels drive them away and keep us free to choose good. Our guardian angels help the Lord give us good loves, to try to do what is right. Other angels welcome new spirits to heaven and make them feel at home after they arrive. Whatever job the angels have, it is one that they thoroughly love. It’s fun for them! They are always eager to wake up each morning and do their work. In the afternoon they relax with friends and go home with their married partners in the evening. They try to do their best in whatever job they have. Doing their jobs well gives the angels great satisfaction.

Activity Overview | Life in Heaven

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:12, 14

Songs

Father All Holy!

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-father-all-holy/>

Lord, Look Down from Heaven on Us

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lord-look-down-from-heaven-on-us/>

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Circle the Correct Word
- Activity 2 | True or False?
- Picture to Color—The Prince’s Palace (See *Conjugal Love* 12)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch the video, *What Heaven Is Like* at bitly.com/HeavenIsLike. (Put this case-sensitive link in the browser at the top of your screen. It will not work in the search bar in the middle of the screen.)
- Create a list of foods you might serve guests at a heavenly banquet.
- Be an angel for a week. Each day do something useful to help your family.
- Draw a picture of the clothes you’d like to wear in heaven.

Activity 1 | Circle the Correct Word

Read each sentence. Decide which of the words in () completes the sentence best. Circle the word. Check your answers.

1. In heaven the Lord prepares a (house, car, rainbow) for each angel.
2. All of the angels have (plain, beautiful, soft) clothes.
3. Angels work at jobs that (earn money, they love to do, bring them great honors).
4. Lapis lazuli is (a city in heaven, the name of a prince, a blue stone).
5. A spiral is most like a (circle, square, cube).
6. A cummerbund is a (hat, shoe, sash).
7. Jasper is a (food, game, green stone).
8. A garden in heaven might have (lawns, flowers, fruit trees).

Answers:
1. house
2. beautiful
3. they love to do
4. a blue stone
5. circle
6. sash
7. green stone
8. lawns, flowers, and fruit trees

Activity 2 | True or False?

Read each sentence. Decide whether the sentence is true or false. Put “T” for True or “F” for False on the line before each question. Check your answers.

- ___ 1. Angels in heaven do not eat food.
- ___ 2. The Lord provides beautiful clothes for angels in heaven.
- ___ 3. Some angels live in marvelous palaces.
- ___ 4. During our life in this world we will determine what kind of heavenly home we live in.
- ___ 5. The greater our love for the Lord and other people, the more beautiful our house will be.
- ___ 6. In heaven you can play all the time.
- ___ 7. Guardian angels help the Lord watch over people on earth.
- ___ 8. Most angels work from morning until night.
- ___ 9. Angels are eager to do their work.
- ___ 10. Heaven is a happy, peaceful place.

Answers:
1. F
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. T

