

General Church Education



Children in Heaven

Heaven and Hell 331-337

Lesson 24

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

CHILDREN IN HEAVEN

Heaven and Hell 331-337

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

The Lord tenderly cares for children in heaven. Angel parents take care of them and teach them.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ Children are born on earth, not in heaven. Married couples in heaven have "spiritual offspring." They experience new states of love and wisdom that are formed as they grow together.
- ❖ Almost all adults first go through an intermediate stage in the world of spirits when they die. Then, when they are ready, they go either to heaven or hell. Little children are always taken immediately into heaven.
- ❖ The innocence of little children is a very special thing. This quality makes it easy for them to accept what is good and true.
- ❖ Spiritually, innocence means being willing to follow the Lord.

CHILDREN IN HEAVEN

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Children in heaven do many things that we do.
However, there are special ways that their life is different.
Children and babies in heaven live with angel mothers and their husbands.
They learn to follow the Lord just like we do.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **What kind of homes do the angels live in?** (Angel homes can be similar to ours. They can also be palaces, wooden houses or tents—all very beautiful and special.)
- ♦ **Are there trees and flowers in heaven?** (Yes, and some of them sparkle as if covered with jewels.)
- ♦ **How do the angels get a home?** (The Lord provides exactly what each one needs.)



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

Perhaps you have wondered how children grow up in heaven. It is very sad when a baby or a little child dies. Sometimes this happens, although the Lord does not wish it so. Babies and little children go immediately to heaven, in a special place where they are close to the Lord. Angel mothers take care of them because they are still babies and need to grow up. Let's read about it.



Read **Heaven and Hell 332:**

As soon as infants are raised from the dead, which takes place immediately after death, they are taken up into heaven and committed to the care of angel women who in the life of the body loved children tenderly, and at the same time loved God. Since these angels when in the world loved all children from a motherly tenderness, they receive them as their own; and the infants also love them instinctively as their own mothers.

Do you think the angel mothers love these new babies as their own children? Yes, we are told they do. And the babies love them as their own mothers.

In heaven, babies have spiritual bodies. You remember that a spiritual body has all the same parts as a natural body. However, a spiritual body works much better and is always healthy. In heaven the spiritual bodies of little babies grow quickly. Babies learn more easily and quickly, too. They learn to walk and talk. Everyone in heaven speaks the same language, so that makes learning easier than on earth as well.

When babies grow older, they think they were born in heaven and that the Lord is their Father. After all, He is the Heavenly Father of everyone! They live with angel parents and about four or five other children. These angel parents love the Lord and little children. They all live in a lovely home where each child has his or her own room. The children keep their rooms clean. They have all of the clothes they need and a garden of their own.



Do you wonder what children learn in heaven? They still need to learn many things. They learn about the Lord and His Word. They also learn how to be useful and help others. They need to learn not to get angry and not to act in selfish ways.

Children have their own copy of the Word that they read every day. They also learn from their parents and teachers. Sometimes ministers come to talk to them as well. Children in heaven also learn from watching little scenes or plays.

When the children do their work and learn new things, new and beautiful clothes appear in their closets. Then they know they are doing well. Or, perhaps they will be delighted to find a new flower appear in their garden.

However, when children in heaven are naughty, their clothes have spots on them that won't wash out, and the flowers in their gardens fade—which usually doesn't happen in heaven. Then they know they must think about what they have done. Perhaps they have not read from the Word or have not done their lessons. Perhaps they were not nice to a friend. If they can't think of anything, their kind angel mothers help them remember. When the children are sorry and make things right again, the spots on their clothing disappear so that they look like new again. The flowers in their gardens perk up and bloom brightly again.

Children in heaven do their work and learn in the morning. After lunch they play games in the afternoon. Little girls learn from the women and especially love to sew and make presents to give their friends. Little boys learn from the men and especially enjoy running games and games played with balls. Just as on earth, some children are better at one thing than another. In heaven, everyone is rewarded for trying their best. That is what the Lord wants everyone to do: try to do the best they can.



Does it sound like it would be fun to learn in heaven? What do you like best about it?

The Lord's plan is for everyone to grow up on earth. When children die because of accidents or illness in this imperfect world, the Lord brings them immediately to heaven. Wherever children grow up, the Lord is always near them. He loves children and wants the best for them.

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Who takes care of babies in heaven?** (Angel mothers.)
- ♦ **What do you remember about children's spiritual bodies in heaven?** (They grow quickly and learn more easily.)
- ♦ **How many languages are there in heaven?** (One heavenly language.)
- ♦ **Do children in heaven read the Word?** (Yes, every day.)
- ♦ **What happens to the children's clothes and flowers when they are naughty?** (Their clothes get spots on them that won't wash out and their flowers fade and droop.)
- ♦ **What happens to these things when the children remember what they have done wrong and apologize?** (Their clothes look clean again and their flowers bloom again.)

CHILDREN IN HEAVEN ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21



Project choices:

Children Learn in Heaven project

Color a picture of children in heaven



Songs:

Every Girl in Heaven Has a Garden Bright—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-every-girl-in-heaven-has-a-garden-bright/>

Father in Heaven, Who Gave Us the Word—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-father-in-heaven-who-gave-us-the-word/>



Stories:

"Happiness for Kerry"—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/audio-happiness-for-kerry/>

"The Lost Lamb" (Audio)—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/audio-the-lost-lamb/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Have a "Heavenly Party" or play "Heavenly Games"—cooperative games with no winners or losers. Each person tries their best. Make "awards" or "prizes" for everyone.
- ❖ Even in heaven children make mistakes. When this happens, speak calmly about a problem behavior and how it leads to unhappiness. Sincere apologies and taking action to right the situation can restore good states. A warm smile and hug can signal a lesson learned and loved shared. Parents and teachers have an important role in helping children learn from difficult situations.

Children Learn in Heaven

This project demonstrates how children in heaven can learn by seeing the flowers in their gardens.

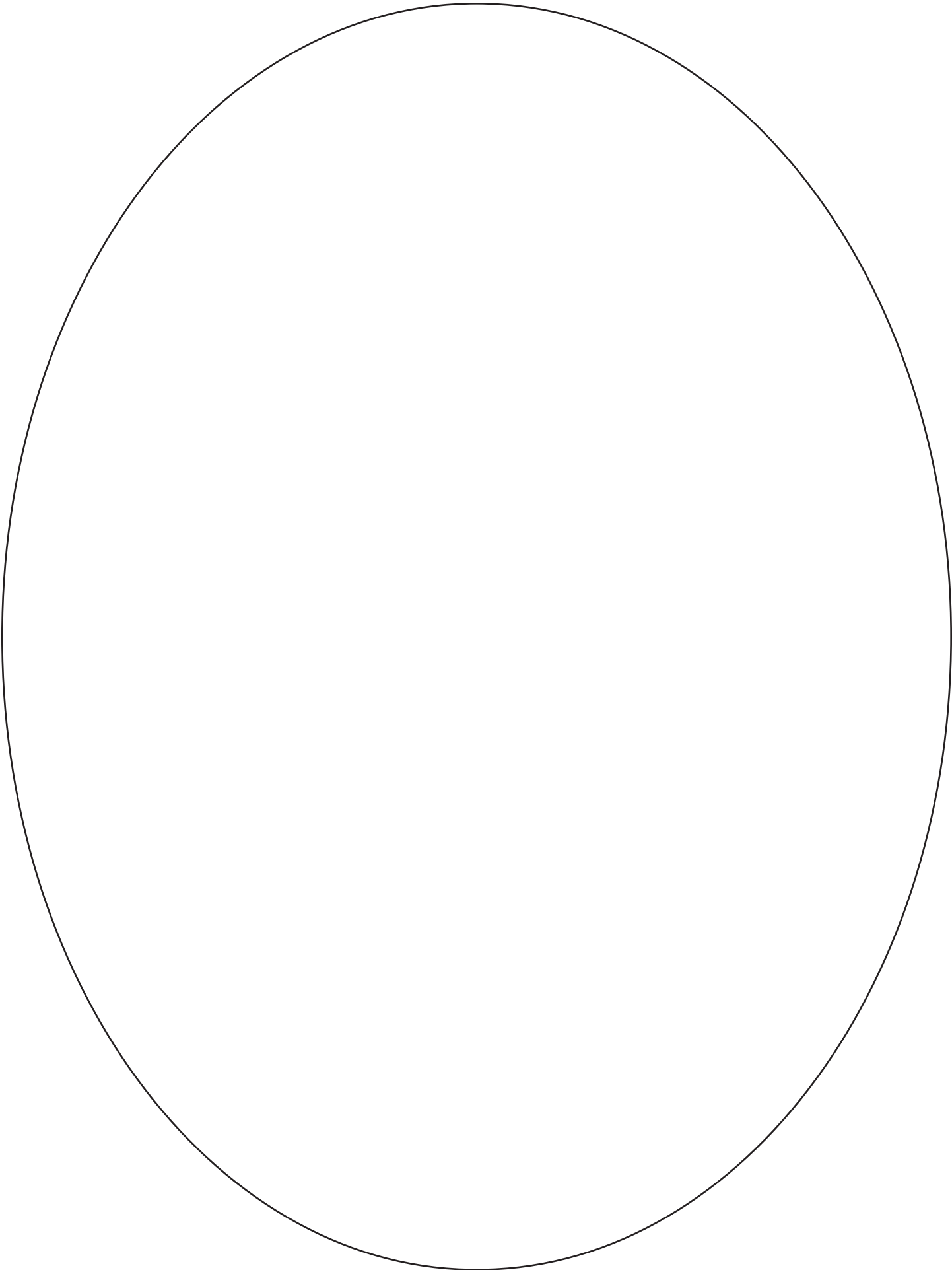
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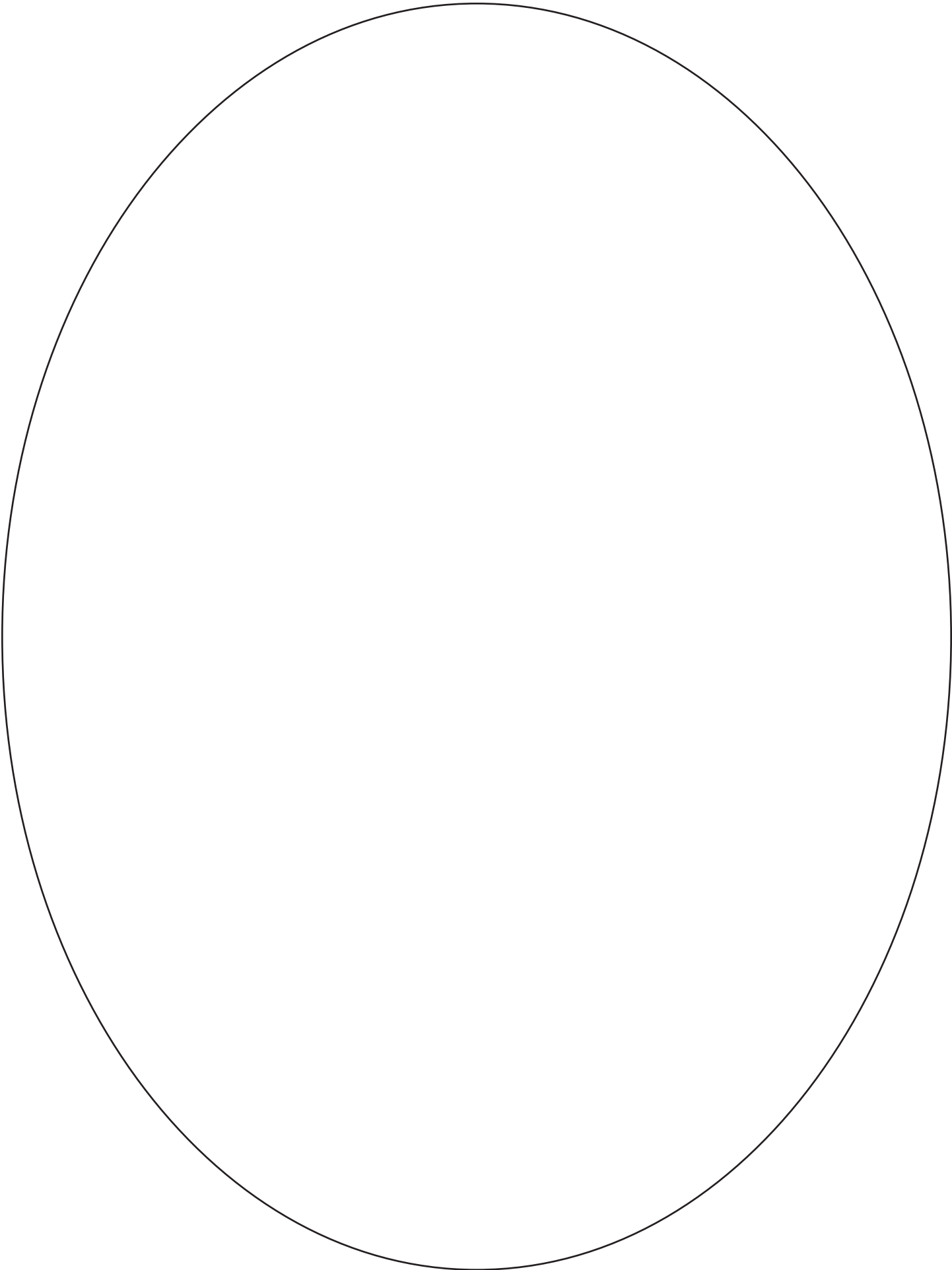
2 printed page
scissors
glue
crayons or markers
several small pieces of different color
construction paper
unsharpened pencil

Project instructions:

1. Cut out the ovals on the printed pages.
2. In the center of one oval, glue a beautiful flower made by cutting various shapes from the pieces of construction paper.
3. In the center of the other oval draw a faded, drooping flower with crayons or markers.
4. Glue the two ovals back to back with the pencil in between, sticking out below the ovals about half way.
5. Now you can turn the oval back and forth while you tell about children in heaven remembering things they have done wrong and then making them right again.









Recitation Award: Children in Heaven

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

