

Against the Odds: A Floating Egg (Ages 7-10)

Materials Needed

clear or translucent pitcher; 3½-5 cups hot tap water (the water should be warm enough for salt to dissolve, but not boiling); raw egg at room temperature (bring a spare egg in case of accidents); ½ cup table salt in a cup; teaspoons; long-handled stirring spoon
optional: permanent marker (medium tip)

Prepare in Advance

Gather materials. If necessary, warm the egg to room temperature by holding it in cupped hands or running under warm water.

New Church Concept Three Hundred

“Three hundred signifies what is full, because this number arises from three and a hundred by multiplication, and three signifies what is full and a hundred signifies much; for what compound numbers involve is seen from the simple numbers from which they are.” *Arcana Coelestia* 5955

The Lord said He would save Israel by the power of 300 men. Since Israel’s enemies were as vast as the sand on a shore, this seemed impossible. The Lord would work a miracle to show He would save Israel, not Gideon.

Israel needed to acknowledge the Lord’s saving power. We also need to acknowledge His power to save us in temptation, as we say in the Lord’s Prayer—“Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory”. This experiment demonstrates the Lord’s power to save when we put our trust in Him.

Note: children should wash their hands after handling raw eggs because they may carry salmonella.

1. What happens if you put a raw egg in a cup of water? Will it float or sink? Why do you think so?
2. Let’s find out whether our predictions are true.
3. Fill a pitcher with 3½-5 cups of hot tap water. There is no need to make the water hotter.
4. Optional: using a sharpie, draw a picture of a person or several people on a raw egg.
5. Gently place the egg into in the pitcher of warm water and watch as it sinks to the bottom.
6. Where is the egg? Imagine you are like the egg. What is it like to feel “at the bottom”? Perhaps you’ve had a sinking feeling that you forgot to do your homework? Or that you said something unkind that you didn’t really mean? What else might make you feel “at the bottom”?
7. Our story today is about a few hundred men facing overwhelming odds of winning against a huge enemy. How do you think they felt?
8. The Lord chose just a few soldiers to overcome Israel’s enemies, so they would know that it was really His power that would win the battle. What kinds of battles do we fight? (We fight selfish thoughts and feelings that want to pull us down, to make us feel bad and alone.)
9. The Lord helps us fight battles too. He can give us strength to turn to Him and make good choices. We are going to see what happens when we add salt to the water. Salt is like true ideas we know but are not using. For example, we may know it’s not right to hit another person, but when we feel angry we



may hit them anyway. If we know it's not right to hit, and stop ourselves from hitting, even when we are angry, we are using a true idea to treat others well. Putting salt into the water is like putting truths to work in our lives.

10. Give each child a spoon. Fill the spoons with salt and invite children to pour the salt into the water. Stir the salt into the water. Continue doing this until the egg floats up to the surface of the water. Optional: encourage children to say one true idea each time they add salt to the water.
11. The Lord loves us and wants us to make good choices. He is always there with the power to overcome our evils. We only need to remember His Word and do what He says, and He will help us.



How This Works

The reason one object sinks in water while another one floats has to do with the density of the object and the density of the water it is in.* Objects that are *less* dense than the water they are in float. Objects that are *more* dense than the water they are in sink. Salty water is denser than freshwater, so some things float more easily in salt water than in freshwater. Adding salt to water increases its density. If you add enough salt, the water will be dense enough for an egg to float!

*Density is the mass of a material per unit volume. Density can change. Mass is the amount of matter in an object. It is always the same.

New Church Concept The Power of Truth

“Divine Truth has power in itself, and such power that, by means of it, heaven was created and the world with all things therein. That there is such power latent in Divine Truth may be illustrated by two comparisons, namely, by the power of truth and good in people, and by the power of light and heat from the sun in the world.” *Heaven and Hell* 137.3

New Church Concept Salt

In a good sense, salt represents truth that has a desire for good, that is, a desire to do good. See *Arcana Coelestia* 9207

New Church Concept Angelic Power

By means of the power which angels receive they protect a person by removing the hells from him; for a single angel is stronger than a thousand who come from hell. See *Arcana Coelestia* 10182