

Lapping Up Truths (Ages 11-14)

Materials Needed

Situations p. 2, *Things You Know* pp. 3-4, scissors or paper-cutter, space for cards
optional: hammer, screw-driver

Prepare in Advance

Print pp. 3-4 and cut them apart. Decide which situations you want to use.

The Lord chose 300 men from the 32000 who volunteered to defeat the Midianites. These men lapped water, like dogs and represent true ideas that are eager to serve. They are knowledges from the Word we take in and use to change how we live. Students will explore the idea of being eager for spiritual and natural truths that can help with different aspects of life.



New Church Concept Knowledge

No one is able to see with perception what they do not know and believe. Thus no one can see perceptively any good of love or truth of faith except through knowledge. See *Arcana Coelestia* 1802.3

New Church Concept Importance of Truths

“Nothing is of greater importance to people than knowing what the truth is. When they know what the truth is, and know it so well that it cannot be perverted, it cannot then be steeped in evil desires and have deadly effect.” *Arcana Coelestia* 794.2

1. Have you ever heard the saying that someone “lapped” something up? For example, someone might know everything there is to know about the Stars Wars universe—the characters’ names, faces and clothing, where they come from, what role they play, etc. They eagerly learn any new facts they hear, as if they are thirsty for them. Fads like this often pass as people grow older. What we love changes as we become interested in new things. What kinds of things do you “lap up”, or did you “lap up” when you were younger?
2. The men who lapped water like dogs in the story of Gideon represent this type of learning. They picture eagerness to know something that is true so that it can be put to use.
3. Knowing a lot about one thing can be fun and useful. For example, knowing about Star Wars can give you something to share with a friend. But if you are trying to fix a loose screw you would need a different kind of knowledge. Compare a hammer and a screw-driver. Each can be used to join two things together. When might a hammer be the best tool? When is a screw-driver the best tool? To be useful you need to know which is the right tool for getting a job done.
4. We are going to look at a variety of situations to try to decide which knowledges we need. Some situations are natural, while others are moral or spiritual. Each situation requires the use of a different type of knowledge or truth.
5. Choose a situation to read aloud. Spread out the *Things You Know* cards so all can see them. Invite students to select cards that describe ideas or skills that would be helpful for solving the situation. Discuss your answers.
6. Repeat step 5 with a few of the other situations.
7. The more natural facts we know, the better we can cope in different situations. The same is true spiritually: the more we know about the Lord’s truths, the better we will know how to make good spiritual choices. We can be like Gideon’s 300 men who lapped water—eager for truths, eager to defeat the enemy, eager to serve the Lord!

Situations

You agree to watch a younger brother/sister/dog for the afternoon and your parents are unexpectedly out until midnight.

You feel discouraged about a test at school and are thinking about cheating.

You lose a book you have borrowed from the library.

People are saying unkind things to/about your friend.

You boasted that you knew how to do something you can't actually do. Then someone asks you to do it.

You are driving with your grandma, and the car gets a flat tire.

You want to give your family Christmas presents.

You are on a camping trip and get separated from your family/group as it starts to get dark.

A child you are looking after falls off a bike and scrapes a knee.

You are writing a report and accidentally copy several sentences from a book you are using.

Things You Know

What to do at bedtime.	You shall not lie.	How to listen to directions.
How to tell the truth.	How to admit to making a mistake.	How to say, "I'm sorry."
How to build a fire.	How to use a microwave.	Where first aid supplies are kept.
How to talk to adults.	How to listen.	Which rules are to be kept.
How to make gifts.	Which shows your brother/sister can watch.	How to make a plan.
How to find coupons and good deals.	How to tell directions by looking at the stars.	How to clean a wound.

Things You Know

How to use a cell phone.	How to walk and clean up after a dog.	How to ask an adult for help.
How to calm someone down.	How to study.	How to use branches to make a shelter.
You shall not bear false witness.	How to change a tire.	How to be a good friend.
How to feed a dog.	You shall not steal.	How to earn money.
What the household rules are.	How to shop.	To treat others the way you would like to be treated.
How to comfort someone.	How to keep your temper.	How to make a sandwich.