

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 17
The Lord in Heaven

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. God Himself is a Man, but His love and wisdom appear to the angels as the heavenly sun. (DLW 97)
 - 1. The Lord seems to have a sun around Him because His love seems like a fire all around Him, and His truth is very bright. This is the sun of heaven.
 - 2. The sun of heaven radiates heat, which is love, and shines with light, which is truth.
- B. The sun of heaven never goes down because the Lord never goes away.
- C. The angels are always looking towards the Lord in their minds, so they see His sun in front of them no matter where they turn.
- D. Angels sometimes see the Lord's face in the sun of heaven.
- E. Angels sometimes see the Lord in heaven as a Man with a wonderful light about His head.
- F. The Lord is the source of all life, and everything in heaven and on earth is in His presence and under His guidance.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. What is it like to live in heaven? We've talked before about the world of spirits and about children growing up in heaven. Now we are going to learn about life in heaven.
 - 2. We all know that the Lord is in heaven. We start the Lord's Prayer by saying, "Our Father who art in heaven." ("Art" is in old fashioned word; "who art in heaven" means "who is in heaven.")
 - 3. Where in heaven is the Lord? Do the angels see Him there? Listen while I read about how the Lord appears in heaven.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. Read Chapter 13, "Seeing the Lord in Heaven," from *Life is Forever* by Peter Buss. (Depending on the ages and aptitudes of your students, include or exclude the two readings at the end of the chapter.)

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Where do angels usually see the Lord? (In the sun of heaven)
2. Why does the Lord seem to have a sun around Him? (Because His love seems like fire all around Him, and His truth is very bright)
3. Is the Lord really a sun? (No; He is really a Man. He just looks like a sun to the angels.)
4. Let's talk about our sun on earth. What does it give us? (Heat and light)
5. Is the sun of heaven brighter and stronger than our sun? (Yes)
6. How does sunshine make you feel? (Warm, happy) Sometimes we feel sad when it is cloudy for many days because we can't see the sun.
7. The Lord's sun in heaven makes the angels happy by warming their hearts with love and enlightening their minds with wisdom.
8. Do the angels ever see the Lord in heaven as a Man? (Yes; sometimes as a Man in the sun; sometimes near the sun; sometimes as a Man walking near them)
9. What do the angels see around His head? (A wonderful light)
10. Does the Lord ever come to angels and talk to them? (No; He talks to them in their hearts.)
11. Why do angels see the sun of heaven in front of them no matter which way they turn? (Because their minds are always turned towards the Lord.)
12. Why does the sun of heaven stay up and never go down? (Because the Lord never goes away.)
13. When we think about what the Lord wants us to do, we say we are "turning to the Lord" or "looking to the Lord"; that is, our minds are turned toward Him. Do you know that then we are looking toward the sun of heaven, even though we can't see it?
 - a. The light from the sun of heaven comes to us through the teachings in the Word, and the heat from the sun of heaven— the Lord's love— can fill our hearts when we obey His Word.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Angel Song," by Lori Soneson (Odhner). (Sheet music attached to Lesson #4; you can listen to it on LORI'S SONGS II, Side 2, near the end of the tape.)
2. "The Sun Shines in Splendor," Hymnal #121.

B. Activities

C. Project: The Lord in the Sun of Heaven

1. Have the children fill a sheet of paper with a large sun, fiery and very bright. You could use red, orange, and yellow oil pastels, crayons, or painting crayons.

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2. Then, on another piece of paper, have the children draw the Lord's face, cut it out, and mount it in the center of the sun.
3. Glitter might add a nice touch at the end. (DLW 93 describes the sun of heaven as fiery.)

IV. Teaching Aides

- A. Illustration from the book, *LIFE IS FOREVER*, by Peter Buss, no. 13.
(These could be photocopies and given to the children to color at home, if you like.)

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *Heaven and Hell*, "The Sun in Heaven," nos. 116-125; "Light and Heat in Heaven." nos. 126-140.
- B. *Divine Love and Wisdom*, Part Two (nos. 83-172).
- C. *New Church Life*, 1933, p. 417, "The Sun in Heaven," A Children's talk by the Rev. F. E. Waelchli.

