Learn by Doing

Choice Fountains of Living Waters

When the Samaritan woman met the Lord at the well He told her He could give her water that would become a fountain "springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). We too can meet the Lord at the "well". The well corresponds to the Word. Since the Lord *is* the Word, when we learn from the Word we are being taught by Him (see *Divine Providence* 172). The Lord reveals the spiritual meaning of the Word in the Writings for the New Church. These teachings light up and give life to everything in the Word (see *True Christianity* 780). Students will learn about true ideas from the Writings and create a "fountain" of quotations that are a source for everlasting life.

1. The Samaritan woman talked with the Lord when she came to a well for water. Where can we meet and talk to the Lord? (the Word)
2. "The Word" is short for the "Word of God"—in other words, *words God speaks to us*. What is the Word for the New Church? (Old Testament, New Testament, and the Writings)
3. What does each part of the Word tell us? (**Old Testament**: creation, the Lord leading the children of Israel to the promised land; **New Testament**: the Lord coming on earth, teaching, and rising to heaven after death; **Writings**: the hidden meaning of the Old and New Testa-ments, the reality of life after death, the connection between the spir-itual and natural worlds (correspondences), the nature of the Lord and His mission in the world—that His deepest wish is for everyone to go to heaven, marriage love comes from the marriage of true ideas and good loves, marriages can last to eternity)
4. Hand out *The Writings: A Fountain of Living Waters* (pp. 2-3). The left hand column shows true ideas that the Writings explain more fully than ever before. These explanations in the center column are the "new" truths of the "New Church".
5. With a partner, choose three ideas that interest you. Read the *True Idea*, and *What the Writings Say*. Think about how this idea helps you. For example, "The Lord is love" teaches that although the Lord appeared to be angry in the Old Testament, He was really being loving—just as parents may seem to be angry when they see their children are in danger because they love them. Some people believe that the Lord really is angry because they do not know this true idea. *Optional*: share your ideas with the group.
6. Choose two-four quotations from the column *What the Writings Say*, and write each one on a *Fountain Water Drop* (p. 4). Cut out around the water drops.
7. As a group, share the new truths for the New Church by creating a display of the quotations to illustrate the idea that the Word is a fountain of living waters that will spring up into eternal life. (See picture at top of page.)



Materials Needed

The Writings: A Fountain of Living Waters pp. 2-3, *Fountain Water Drops* p. 4, scissors, pencils or pens *optional*: blue paper for printing water drops

Prepare in Advance

Find wall space to display the "fountain" of true ideas from the Writings.

New Church Concept
Living Waters

"Living waters" are often mentioned in the Word, and by them are meant truths that come to us from the Lord and are received. These are living, because the Lord is Life itself…. The Lord also...opens the spiritual part of our mind, and imparts to us the affection of truth; and the spiritual affection of truth is the very life of heaven within us. *Apocalypse Explained* 483

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The Writings: A Fountain of Living Waters

The Writings for the New Church give life to everything in the Word. The teachings in the center column are uniquely New Church. Choose three true ideas. Think about how each idea helps you. Write your answers in the final column.

True Idea	What the Writings Say	Knowing this helps me…
The Lord is love.	The Lord is love itself because He is life itself; angels and people are recipients of life. *Divine Love and Wisdom* 4 Since the Lord is love itself and wisdom itself, He is also use itself, because love has useful functions as its goal. *Divine Love and Wisdom* 230	
God Himself was born on earth as Jesus.	Jehovah, the Creator of the Universe, came down and took upon Himself a human form, in order to redeem and save humankind. *True Christianity* 81 God became human and the human became God in one person. *True Christianity* 81	
The Lord wants everyone to go to heaven.	The purpose of creation is a heaven from the human race. *Divine Providence* 322 Everyone is created to live forever in a state of happiness. This means that everyone is created to go to heaven. *Divine Providence* 323	
People of all faiths go to heaven.	Everyone can be saved. *Divine Providence* 325 The Lord is love itself, and His love is to will the salvation of all. *Heaven and Hell* 318 Everyone is saved who believes in God and lives a good life. *Divine Providence* 325	
People live forever after death.	Everyone is created to live forever. *Divine Providence* 324 Many people who have just died...have been moved by a new found joy at still being alive. They have said they would not have believed it. *Heaven and Hell* 312	
People are saved by doing what they know is true.	A person will live forever in heaven if his actions have been good, and in hell if they have been bad. *Arcana Coelestia* 8637 The Lord's Church is with all in the whole world who live in good in accordance with their religious belief and acknowledge a Divine. Such people are accepted by the Lord and come into heaven. *Heaven and Hell* 318	
Heaven is real.	In heaven a man is still a man, and a woman is still a woman, in all the perfection of the form in which they were created. *Conjugial Love* 44 The spiritual world contains every single thing that exists in the physical world, although in heaven those things are immensely more perfect. *True Christianity* 794	

The Writings: A Fountain of Living Waters, *continued*

True idea	What the Writings say	Knowing this helps me…
Heavenly happiness comes from being useful.	The angels in heaven have all happiness from uses, and according to uses, so that to them uses are heaven. *Arcana Coelestia* 7038 It is the delight of everyone in heaven to share his delights and blessings with others. Such sharing goes forth from love to the Lord and love toward the neighbor. *Heaven and Hell* 399	
Angels are married.	Conjugial love is the fundamental love of all the loves of heaven. *Apocalypse Explained* 993.2 The union of minds that makes a marriage in the heavens is that each wants his or her blessings to belong to the other. *Heaven and Hell* 369	
Heaven is in the form of a human being.	The whole heaven resembles one human being, which is therefore called the Greatest Human. *Earths in the Universe* 9	
Hell is real.	All who are in the hells are in evils and in falsities from evil. *Heaven and Hell* 552 Spirits in the hells appear in the form of their own evil. They are forms of contempt for others, various shadings of hatred, and various forms of vengefulness. *Heaven and Hell* 553	
Evil is loving yourself and the world more than the Lord and other people.	In hell the love of ruling from the love of self is the dominant love. This love is there called the devil. *Divine Love and Wisdom* 273 To the extent that a person is immersed in self-love he is in hell, for hell is filled with self-love. *Arcana Coelestia* 7369	
The Lord does not judge people. People choose heaven or hell themselves.	The Lord never turns His face away or rejects anyone. He never casts anyone into hell. *Heaven and Hell* 545 A person is going to live forever in heaven if his actions have been good, in hell if they have been bad. *Arcana Coelestia* 8637	
Happy marriages can last forever.	Married partners who are united by conjugial love on earth live together as angels after death. *Arcana Coelestia* 2732 When married partners love each other tenderly, they think of eternity in regard to the marriage covenant, and not at all of its being terminated by death. *Conjugial Love* 216.4	









Fountain Water Drops