

Heaven, Hell and the Afterlife

Overview

Watch two videos about the afterlife by Curtis Childs and discuss the ideas they present.

Prepare to Teach

Familiarize yourself with the videos by watching them. Read through the discussion questions.

Materials Needed

Equipment for showing videos. Set up internet access and a screen ahead of time. Decide whether to have students gather around a small device or to use a TV or projector. Do a trial run so that you know everything will work when the time comes.

Directions

1. We are about to see videos that get us thinking about what it will be like after we die and about how we are already connected to the spiritual world.

Show [What the Afterlife is Like - Swedenborg Minute - YouTube](#) or go to YouTube.com and type in “Off the Left Eye What the Afterlife is Like.” Video is not quite 2 minutes. Be prepared to show the video twice if needed. There’s a lot to take in.

1. Point out that while the videos say that the ideas are Swedenborg’s, Swedenborg says that the ideas are not his but that everything he wrote down came from the Lord while he read the Word.

Discuss “What the Afterlife is Like”

1. Sometimes people think that things on earth are more real and clearer and easier to understand than things in the afterlife. They might imagine that spirits and heaven and things like that are sort of misty and ghostly. But what is actually the case? Are things on earth more real or are things in the afterlife?
2. What makes communication in the spiritual world better and more effective than communication is here on earth?
3. How would it be easier in the afterlife to give someone else directions? How would people be able to share how they really feel in ways they can’t explain on earth?
4. In the afterlife, everyone looks on the outside the way they really are on the inside. Why do you suppose that’s what happens there? Why can’t anyone pretend to be different than they are? Is that idea exciting or scary?

Show: [What Are Heaven and Hell? - Swedenborg Minute - YouTube](#) or go to YouTube.com and type in “Off the Left Eye What Are Heaven and Hell?” Video is not quite 2 minutes.

Discuss “What are Heaven and Hell?”

1. How can it be that heaven and hell are both mindsets and places? What does that mean?
2. What makes a heavenly mindset? What about a hellish one?
3. People settle down in the afterlife wherever they are comfortable, and they want to be around people who are like themselves because that’s where they feel at home. Could a person settle down in the wrong place and pretend to be like the people there? Think about what we just learned in the last video.
4. What do people in heaven do for each other when they come together in communities? What do people in hell do to each other when they come together? As you think about this question, remember that people in the afterlife can communicate much more clearly and understand much more than they could on earth.
5. Final Question, for *both* videos:
6. Why does it matter to know this stuff about the afterlife? What difference does it make to the way you live your daily life?