Learn by Doing

Choice Seeing with Spiritual Eyes

The eye is a camera that sends images to the brain; the brain makes sense of what the eye sees. The mind processes the images and decides where to look, what to focus on, how to respond. The mind is the part of a person that is most closely connected with the spirit. At birth, our minds are mostly concerned with the world around us. As our minds develop they have the potential to open toward the Lord and let in the light of heaven. The amount of heavenly light that shines into (or is blocked out of) our minds depends on our choices. Students will look at various situations and think of ways a person could respond if seeing the situation through "wordly" eyes, "spiritual" eyes, or in spiritual darkness.

1. When do you see best—in daytime (sunlight) or nighttime (darkness)? Why is this?
2. Choose an object for everyone to look at. What do you see? Everyone sees things slightly differently. What we see depends on what we know and understand and how our brain interprets what we see.
3. So what *actually* sees—the *eyes*, or the *mind*?
4. Let's think about the kind of "sight" we have for what goes on around us. Imagine an egg broken on the ground—how might you interpret it? (waste, clumsy, young child, mess, accident, etc.) Which of these thoughts come from the spiritual light of heaven? Which come from worldly light? Which come from spiritual darkness?
5. We are going to look at a variety of situations and brainstorm ways a person could respond in the light of heaven, in the light of the world, or in spiritual darkness.
6. Hand out cards from p. 2. Call on students to read a card. Possible responses that would come from seeing the situation in the light of heaven, the light of the world, or spiritual darkness.
7. Which is more important—*what* we see or *how* we see?
8. What we love determines what we see. Angels may see something as beautiful, while evil spirits may see the same thing as ugly. How do you know what kind of sight you are using to see?

Materials Needed

copy of *Seeing with Spiritual Eyes,* p. 2, an object to look at (computer, basketball, knitting, etc.)

Prepare in Advance

Print *Seeing with Spiritual Eyes* (p. 2) and cut apart.

New Church Concept Heavenly Sight

There are three heavens…a central or third heaven, an intermediate or second one, and an outermost or first.

The inner nature of angels determines which heaven they are in.

Heaven's sun is the Lord; light there is the divine truth and warmth the divine good. (Heaven and Hell 29, 33, 117.)

People in heaven turn toward the Lord as the sun…people in the spiritual kingdom turn toward Him as the moon. People in hell turn toward the darkness that is on the opposite side, and so turn away from the Lord. We turn away from the Lord in spirit if we are caught up in self-love and love of the world, and toward Him if we are in a love for Him and for our neighbor (*Heaven and Hell* 123).

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It's a beautiful day in spring.	You are the first to arrive on the scene of an accident.	You feel hurt by something another person said about you.
Your brother/sister takes your favorite shirt without asking.	You hear your friend got the job you wanted and you did not.	You lent your laptop to a friend. It was returned broken.
Your parents will not let you go to a movie that "everyone else" is seeing.	Your friend receives a reward or prize you had hoped for.	You have free time. A parent asks you to do something for him/her.
You get a good grade on an assignment.	You are nervous about a speech you are giving.	Your friend misses a goal kick, and your team loses the game.
You see two people arguing.	You hear a baby cry.	You receive an unexpected gift.

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