Learn by Doing

Choice The Bible, Creation, and a Can of Peaches

Every natural thing is connected to something spiritual. This is true of the physical things in creation. It is also true of the people, places and things in the Word. The connection or relationship between natural and spiritual things is called correspondence.

Two things correspond because they have an equivalent use, but at different levels, the natural and the spiritual. For example, the natural sun, which is the source of all life on earth, corresponds to the Lord, who is the source of all spiritual life. Correspondence is a mutual relationship, working in both directions. It literally means "to respond together", to co-respond.

Human beings are both natural and spiritual. We have physical bodies, and spiritual minds and souls. Correspondences help us understand what the stories in the Bible are teaching us about our own spiritual lives.

This video introduces the concept of correspondence which will be used throughout the rest of *Creation: Reflection of God*. Watch the video and explore the topic using the discussion questions provided below. Read through the questions and select the ones that will work best for your group.

Video Online

View at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-how-is-the-bible-like-a-can-of-peaches/

1. What word describes the relationship between natural and spiritual things? (correspond or correspondence)
2. We know that a loaf of bread is real because we experience it through our senses. We can see it, smell it, touch it, and taste it! How do we know that love is real? (We experience it in different ways, through feelings and thoughts, through interacting with other people.)
3. What are some other things that we can't see or touch, but we know are real? (all emotions—anger, grief, etc.; ideas or thoughts)
4. What would happen if a baby didn't have any food? What would happen if a baby didn't have any love? Is one worse than the other? Are they equally bad? Why or Why not?
5. The video uses Jesus saying, "I am the bread of life" as an example of a place where there is a clear inner meaning. Can you think of other examples in the Word? *Hint*: think of quotations from the Word that start with "I" or "You". (I am the bright and morning star. I am the light of the world. I am the Alpha and the Omega. You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. I will make you fishers of men.)
6. The video compares a full can of peaches to the Word or Bible. To get inside a can to eat the peaches you need a can-opener. Do we have a "can-opener" for the Word? (The Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church tells us the correspondences for many things in the Word.)
7. Sometimes religion and science seem to disagree. How the earth began is one of the topics that people argue about. Scientific ideas about creation—the big bang theory, the age of the earth, the way different kinds of plants and animals developed—seem very different from the story of creation giv-en in the Bible. How does the idea of natural and spiritual things corresponding affect how we un-derstand the story of creation? How might the idea of correspondence make a difference in the disa-greement between religion and science?

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