

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 13**  
**Babies in Heaven**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. Babies are taken to heaven immediately after their decease. (HH 332)
- B. Infants and very little children live in the inmost heaven closest to the Lord.
- C. Babies in heaven are given angel mothers who on earth loved babies more than most people do and who also loved God. Each mother has as many infants as she wants from her spiritual parental affection. (HH 332)
- D. All infants are under the direct care of the Lord. The Lord is their Heavenly Father, and they grow up believing that they belong to Him. They are unaware that they were born in the world. (HH 332)
- E. Children in heaven are with angels but are not themselves angels until they are sufficiently wise and good, for understanding and wisdom constitute an angel. (HH 340)
- F. Children learn to do things more quickly in heaven because of the nature of their spiritual bodies and the fine angelic teachers they have. It is likely that they grow to maturity more quickly than they would on earth.
- G. Little children are taught mainly by means of representations suited to them. These representations are very beautiful and are filled with wisdom from within. One such representation depicted the Lord rising from His tomb and the simultaneous union of His Human with His Divine. These representations guide them to recognize what is true and have affection for what is good. (HH 335; AC 2299)
- H. When little children are ready for further instruction, they are transferred to another heaven where teachers educate them.

## II. Story Circle

### A. Introduction

1. Once there was a family with a new baby. Everyone loved the baby, especially his parents and his brothers and sisters. But the baby was born with something wrong with his body; his heart didn't work right. The baby was only a month old when he died. His parents' were very sad. His brothers and sisters cried and cried. Everyone missed the baby so much!
2. Is this a sad story? Yes, the beginning is very sad; but the story isn't over yet. The Lord took the little baby straight into heaven. He was very happy there, and when he grew up, he became an angel. His family thought about him a lot, and it made them feel better to know how happy he was in his heavenly home.
3. But what is it like to grow up in heaven? Today let's talk about babies and little children in heaven, children up to about 5 years old.

### B. Read/Tell the Story

1. Read the attached description, "What it's like to be a Little Child in Heaven."

### C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Do you know any babies or children who are in heaven? What might they be doing? (Acting out stories from the Word with carved wooden figures; playing with toys; playing in parks; learning about the Lord and heaven. Emphasize how happy they are.)
2. Who takes care of children in heaven? (The Lord is their Father and they have angel mothers.)
3. When a baby arrives in heaven, is he/she an angel yet? (No, babies and children can't be angels until they learn about life in heaven and become both wise and good.)

### D. Further Ideas

1. Babies wake up in heaven very soon after they die. They don't spend any time in the world of spirits. Do you know why?

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- a. The most important thing that happens in the world of spirits is that people show what they are really like, whether they love good or evil. But it takes people a long time on earth to decide if they love good or evil. Babies and children haven't lived on earth long enough to make that decision, so they go straight to heaven.
2. Babies learn things more quickly in heaven than they would on earth because spiritual bodies and brains are so much better than our earthly bodies and brains. And the angels are excellent teachers.
  - a. They learn to walk quite easily. And they learn the angels' language in less than a month! They learn many things to help them grow into angels.
  - b. Since angels are wise and good, little children are taught to see what is true and to love what is good. They learn the Lord's prayer and other prayers. Ministers come and talk to them. And there are special representations that teach them wonderful things about the Lord and His Word. As they learn, their spiritual bodies grow.
3. The Word tells us how little children in heaven learn about Easter with a special representation of the Easter story.
  - a. They are showed how the Lord rose into heaven on Easter morning and how He went down very close to hell to lift up all the good people that the evil spirits had been making unhappy. In the representation they helped the Lord to lift up the good people with what seemed to be strings. They were learning how the Lord helped those good people and that angels try to help the Lord to do kind things for other people.
4. Do you think children in heaven are always good? (No; they aren't angels yet, and they do naughty things sometimes.)
5. Wouldn't it be nice to grow up in heaven and know for sure that you would be an angel someday? Did you know that you could become just as good an angel as a baby that grows up in heaven?

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- a. The Lord is your Heavenly Father too, and if you love Him and your neighbor and try to do what is good, He will be able to help you to grow to become an angel just as surely as if you were growing up in heaven.

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "Every Child in Heaven Has a Garden Bright," Hymnal #149
2. "You Shall Love the Lord Your God With All Your Heart and Mind," FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, p. 7.
3. "Angel Song," 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.)

#### B. Activities

#### C. Project

1. Have children make one of the special skies seen where little children live in heaven. You could use markers or special "painting crayons" on white paper for color for the sky, and then add flowers or diamonds in the form of glitter or sequins for a special effect. (You can sometimes find flower shapes like sequins in arts and crafts stores, and clear beads will do nicely for diamonds. Rainbow striped ribbon cut into short lengths can be glued to the page to depict the sky full of tiny rainbows.) If there is time, children could draw in a small child or two looking at the sky; or you could provide a line drawing of a young child for them to color in and cut out, then glue onto the page. (See AC 1621, 1623)

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations from the book, LIFE IS FOREVER, by Peter Buss, nos. 9 and 10.

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**V. Further Reading for the Teacher**

A. *Heaven and Hell* 332-345.

B. *Spiritual Diary* 5668.

C. *Arcana Coelestia* 1621, 1623 and 2289-2309.

D. *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapters 9 and 10.

## WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A LITTLE CHILD IN HEAVEN

Imagine that you are a baby waking up in heaven. You see the face of a beautiful woman. She smiles at you, and you know right away that she loves you very much. She holds you gently in her arms and sings a lovely song. And you are aware of a wonderful smell—perhaps it is the scent of sweet-smelling flowers.

This is your angel mother. When she lived in the world, she loved babies more than most people do. And she loved the Lord. Every angel has a special job to do, and hers is to take care of babies in heaven. She loves her job, and she is very good at it.

You live in a special place in heaven, close to the Lord. The Lord is your Father, and He watches over you very carefully. Your angel mother takes care of you each day, and the Lord shows her the best ways to teach you about heaven and help you grow to be an angel.

You are quite happy in heaven. Both your angel mother and her husband love you very much, and you love them. You have other children to play with, too! Some angel mothers take care of several children, so there might be other children in your home. Or perhaps other children live nearby, and you see them often.

You live in a beautiful home, and the Lord provides you with food, clothing, and everything else you need. You have wonderful toys to play with. Perhaps you have carved wooden figures so you can act out stories from the Word, such as Noah and the Ark, Moses Crossing the Red Sea, David and Goliath, and the Birth of the Lord on earth. You might have a special doll or a stuffed animal. It's hard to know what toys in heaven would be like, but you would certainly have them, and since the Lord gives them to you, they would surely be special.

You live in a very beautiful part of heaven where the sky is always changing. Sometimes it looks like it is full of tiny flowers that are many different colors. Sometimes the sky glitters as if it is made of tiny diamonds. Another time it sparkles with tiny rainbows. Sometimes you look at the sky, and it seems to have the shapes of little children playing. Another time the sky looks like it is on fire with a gold or silver color. When you see the beautiful sky, it makes you feel very happy inside, and you feel close to the Lord.

There is a special park where your angel mother takes you to play. She makes a garland [necklace] of flowers to

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put around your neck. There are many little children there with their angel mothers and some older girls. You meet your friends and go off to play. There are many lovely trees and gorgeous flowers there. You can follow many paths through the gardens to explore the park. There might be lambs and fawns for you to play with, too.

When you have been in heaven for several years, you will be old enough to move to another part of heaven, and there you continue to learn how to be an angel. For angels must be wise and good, and it takes time to become wise and good, doesn't it?