

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 15**  
**Children in Heaven - Part 2**

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. Children are taken to heaven after their decease.
- B. Children in heaven are given angel mothers and teachers who care for them and educate them in the ways of heaven.
- C. Children in heaven look to the Lord as their Heavenly Father.
- D. 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)
- E. Children learn to do things more quickly in heaven because 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.
- F. There are many societies that care for children in heaven.
- G. Children are instructed by their teachers in the morning and play together in the afternoon.
- H. Boys in heaven love to talk with the angels about the life of heaven. They are eager to learn, and they are full of joy when they understand something.
- I. One who wishes better to himself than to others loves himself, and this is of hell.
- J. All good affections and thoughts, heavenly joys and happiness are from the Lord alone.

**II. Story Circle**

- A. Introduction
  - 1. Last time we talked about children in heaven, but mostly about what it is like for girls— about their dresses and gardens from the Lord.
  - 2. Today we are going to learn more about children in heaven, and our story is mostly about boys this time.
- B. Read/Tell the Story
  - 1. Read the attached story, "The Gold Coin."

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### C. Ideas for Presentation and Discussion

1. What had happened to Aaron during choir practice? (His voice had sounded terrible; he couldn't sing in harmony with the choir, so his teacher had asked him to leave.)
2. What had he been thinking about during choir practice? (That his voice was better than everyone else's, and that he wished he could sing a solo.)
3. What did Aaron feel was more important at the time: how good the choir sounded, or how good he sounded? (How good he sounded)
4. What did Aaron do that hurt Pierre's feelings? (Told Pierre to give up on the Word stand and do something easier so Pierre's worrying wouldn't bother Aaron.)
5. Who was Aaron thinking about when he said that, himself or Pierre? (Himself)
6. And whom had he been thinking about when he had sounded awful at choir practice? (Himself)
  - a. We've talked before about children in heaven not being angels yet and not being good all the time. Sometimes they are selfish, as Aaron was, and think that they are better than other children. Then the Lord gives them a sign, a hint that they have not done well.
  - b. In our story last week, a girl laughed when Jenny gave an answer to her teacher that wasn't as good as it could have been. The Lord's sign to the girl that she had been thinking of herself and not of Jenny was...? (A dirty spot on her dress)
7. What was Aaron's sign from the Lord that he had been thinking about himself and not about how the whole choir sounded? (His voice, which was usually beautiful, had sounded terrible.)
8. Aaron was worried that his voice would sound terrible during the concert and that he would ruin the songs. What did John tell him to do? (Remember that the Lord was on his side, and ask the Lord to help him.)
9. Did Aaron ask the Lord for help, and did the concert go well? (Yes)
  - a. We've talked before about children in heaven receiving signs from the Lord that they have done well. A garden will have new and better flowers, or a girl will find a new dress in her closet, as Jenny did in our story last week.
10. What was Aaron's sign from the Lord that he had done well with the choir on the holiday and in working things out with his friend Pierre? (He found a shiny gold coin in his pocket on the way home.)

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- a. If someone is very good at singing, swimming, knotting, playing baseball, or anything else, he or she has that special talent as a gift from the Lord. And some people, like Aaron, have more than one talent: Aaron was good at singing and at making things. The Lord wants us to use our talents, our abilities, and He wants us to enjoy them. After all, it would be silly if someone gave you a gift but you never bothered to open it, you just looked at it, and then hid it under your bed or in your closet. The Lord wants us to use the gifts he gives us.
  - b. But the Lord doesn't want us to think that the talents He gives us make us better than other people. And if we don't have as many talents as someone else, He doesn't want us to feel sad and worried that we aren't as good. If you get six gifts for Christmas, and someone else gets one, does that make you a better person, or him a worse one? No!
11. How had the Lord shown John that he would be a terrible person if it weren't for the Lord's help? (He let John leave heaven and visit the world of spirits so John could feel what he would really be like.)
    - a. It's okay to feel that we do things from ourselves, as long as we remember where all good things really come from – the Lord.
  12. Why do you think there are days of festivity in heaven? (Angels love to do their jobs, and they always try to do their best. They need to take time to relax and have fun, just like people in this world. Then they can go back to their work refreshed and with more energy, so they can do even better than before.

### 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," by 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

1. Have children sing a song together as nicely as they can. Then have one child volunteer to sing loudly to "be the best." Record both versions so you can play them back to the children, and talk about which version sounded better.

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### C. Project

#### 1. Aaron and the Choir

- a. 12x18 drawing paper turned widthwise. Draw a line down the center to divide the paper into halves, each 12X9. On the left, illustrate the choir singing, and Aaron looking distressed as he is sent away by the teacher, Robert. On the right, Aaron joins the choir at the festival and does well because he asks the Lord for help. (Perhaps show the Lord's presence by face in the sun?) Label the left side, "Aaron Thinks He is Better," and the right side, "Aaron Asks the Lord's Help" (or other such titles.)

#### 2. Aaron and the Gold Coin

- a. (See attached project.) Children can color and cut out Aaron. Provide a small piece of gold foil paper so they can cut a coin to glue onto the back of "Aaron's pocket" with the coin showing out the top of the pocket. Then glue the pocket onto the figure.
- b. The triangle is to make Aaron stand. After cutting and folding, glue the ½" strip to Aaron's back, flush with the bottom of the figure. (Be careful that it doesn't extend beyond the bottom of the figure, or Aaron will not be able to stand.)

### IV. Teaching Aides

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *The Spiritual World* by Hugo Odhner, Chapter 7, "Children in the Other Life."
- B. *Life is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapter II, "Boys and Girls in Heaven."
- C. CL 17:i, v; AC 549, 552; HH 342:2; AR 611.

## THE GOLD COIN

Aaron stopped to watch a fawn leap away into the woods. His angel guardian, John, walked on ahead.

"What do you think I should do?" asked Aaron. John was silent, thinking. Then he said, "Tell me more about your problem. What do you think is causing you this trouble?"

"Well, I'm good at doing lots of things, and I know it," said Aaron.

"You do many things well," John said. "But that's not the problem. Think about what happened today."

Aaron didn't really want to think about choir practice. The choir was working on two new songs for the holiday concert just two days from now. Aaron had a superb voice, and he loved to sing. But today his voice had sounded terrible. He couldn't sing in harmony with the rest of the choir. Finally his teacher had asked him to leave.

"Why was your voice different today?" asked John. "What did you think about as you sang?" But Aaron could not answer him. He didn't see the problem clearly yet.

John and Aaron went back to the house. Aaron's two brothers were in the gathering room doing woodcarving. John's beautiful angel wife, Meg, was serving dinner. John sat down beside Meg at the table. She always looked especially beautiful when she was near him. Everyone could feel their love for each other as they sat down to eat dinner together.

One of Aaron's brothers wanted to talk about the holiday. "Isn't it wonderful? I'm so glad the prince declared a holiday. What fun it will be!"

The other brother agreed. "I can hardly wait. There will be concerts and games, feasts and plays!"

Everyone was looking forward to the holiday except Aaron. The concert worried him.

The next morning, the boys went off to school. Aaron always enjoyed school. His teacher was very wise, and Aaron loved to learn about the Lord and heaven. After worship the teacher took them to visit another society in heaven. While they were there, three men from the world of spirits came to visit heaven. The angels of that society were polite to them, but it was obvious that the men didn't belong in heaven because they didn't really believe in the Lord. After a short time, the men started to gasp for breath, and they seemed to be in pain. They threw themselves down out of heaven, and as they fell head first, they looked like dead horses! The boys turned away; they couldn't bear to see such a thing. They wanted to leave, so their teacher led them home.

"What did that mean?" asked Aaron. "Why did the men look like dead horses when they fell from heaven?"

The teacher explained to them what it meant. "A beautiful, living horse means understanding the Word. But when someone in the spiritual world thinks about the Word without trying to understand it, he can look like a dead horse. The men you saw thought they could live in heaven if only they said they believed in the Lord. But they didn't really believe in Him. And they never thought about all of His wonderful qualities: that He is love, and all good things are from Him; that He is wisdom, and He knows everything; that He is all powerful and always present."

One of Aaron's friends, Pierre, said, "Do we look like dead horses when we don't understand the Word?"

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"No," said the teacher, "because you try to understand, and you love learning about the Lord. But the three men you saw didn't want to learn about the Lord." And he taught them more as they walked back to school.

Everything went well in choir practice. Aaron thought about how well their song praised the Lord. It sounded beautiful. But the project time didn't go as well. Everyone was working on individual projects. Some of the boys were woodcarving, and some were drawing and painting. They were making things for their own use or to give away as gifts.

Aaron was making a candle holder for his family to use in worship. He had worked on it for many days, and it looked magnificent. His friend, Pierre, was making a very simple Word stand out of wood. Pierre worried and worried about it. He kept on saying he was sure he would make a mistake, and it would be ruined.

Aaron really liked Pierre, but it bothered him to hear him worrying out loud so much. It made it hard to concentrate on his work. He said, "Stop worrying, Pierre. You'll make me ruin my beautiful candle holder. Why don't you give up on your Word stand and do something easier?" He regretted his words immediately, but it was too late. Pierre's eyes brimmed with tears, and he tried to wipe them away before anyone noticed. Aaron apologized, but it wasn't enough.

The teacher took Aaron aside. He said, "Were you thinking of Pierre when you spoke that way?"

"No," said Aaron. "I was thinking about my project. But Pierre was bothering me. He always worries about making a mistake."

"And you," said the teacher, "you think you can do anything, don't you? You both think of yourselves too much. Talk to John after lunch, please."

So when Aaron went home for lunch, he talked with John, his wise and kind angel guardian. And John said, "The Lord has blessed you with many talents, many things you can do well. Do you ever feel that you are better than the other boys because you can do things easily?"

Aaron had not thought of it that way, but John was right. "That's what happened in choir practice yesterday," said Aaron. "I thought my voice was much better than everyone else's, and I wished I could sing a solo."

"Ah," said John. "No wonder you couldn't sing with the choir. When you thought of yourself that way, you couldn't sing harmoniously with the other boys."

Aaron knew he was thinking of himself when he had suggested that Pierre give up on the Word stand. He had felt that his project was more important than Pierre's because it was fancier.

John knew that Aaron understood the problem now. He said, "You are getting closer to being an angel, so you must learn that all good comes from the Lord. Angels can't go around thinking they are better than each other! The Lord knows that you are ready to work on this problem now."

John continued. "After I grew up in heaven, but before I became an angel, the Lord let me visit the world of spirits. You see, I thought I was better than other people. I thought I was perfect, and that my good was from myself. So the Lord let me leave heaven for a little while to see what I would be like without His help. And I found out what a terrible person I would be if the Lord didn't help me be good. Then I was ready to live a heavenly life."

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"I feel better," Aaron replied. "Now that I understand the problem, I can work on it. But I'm still worried about the concert tomorrow. I wish my teacher would let me skip the concert. What if I ruin the songs?"

"We have to face up to our problems, Aaron. If we run away from them, we'll have to face them another time. Just remember that the Lord is on your side. Ask Him to help you."

The next day was the holiday. Aaron and his family walked to the center of town for the concert. There was a stage for the musicians and the choirs. And they heard wonderful music and songs. Then it was time for the boys' choir. Aaron was very nervous. "Should I keep my mouth closed?" he wondered. "Or should I sing?" Then Aaron asked the Lord for help, and he squeezed every thought out of his mind except that he was singing to the Lord.

The first song praised the Lord, the Creator. And the second was a joyful song about the Lord's birth on earth. When the boys sang, everyone who heard their songs felt closer to their heavenly Father.

"It worked!" Aaron told John and Meg. "I asked the Lord for help, and everything was fine." John smiled, and Meg gave Aaron a big hug.

Later that morning Aaron searched out Pierre. He said, "I'm sorry that I hurt your feelings, Pierre. Can we still be friends?"

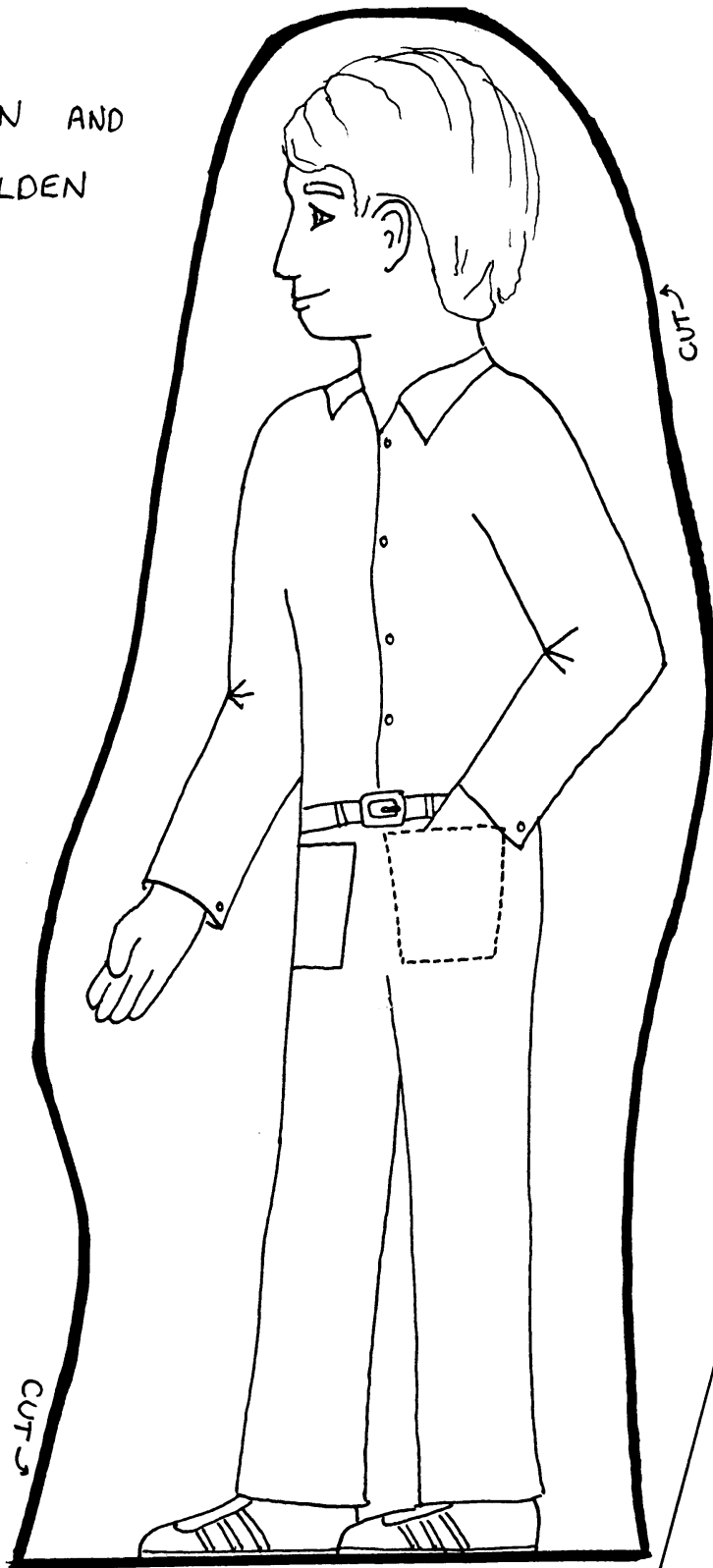
"Sure," said Pierre. "We are the best of friends!" The two boys ran to the picnic area to enjoy the holiday feast. Then they joined in the games and races organized for the children. Later they saw special plays shown just outside the city. It was a wonderful day, and Aaron and Pierre had a great time.

As Aaron walked home with his family that evening, he felt something in his pocket. He pulled out a brilliant gold coin. It was a sign from the Lord that he had done especially well. All his family was happy for him. And John said, "I guess you are a little closer to being an angel!"

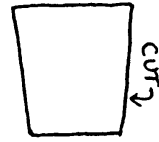
(Adapted from *Apocalypse Revealed* 611; *Heaven and Hell* 342:2;  
*Arcana Coelestia* 549, 552)

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him,  
bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:15)

AARON AND  
THE GOLDEN  
COIN



AARON'S POCKET



FOLD

