

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 20
A Day in the Life of an Angel

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Conjugal love is from the Lord, and all the happiness of heaven springs from its delights.
- B. Angelic couples love to think and feel as one. Sometimes they appear as one angel at a distance.
- C. Angelic couples produce spiritual offspring, which are new loves and new thoughts in their life together.
- D. Angels sometimes see the Lord's face in the sun of heaven. He is the source of all life, and everything in heaven and on earth is in His presence and under His guidance.
- E. The Lord provides everything the angels need. They are given homes, clothes, food, etc. according to the uses they perform, i.e., the highest angels perform the highest uses and therefore have the loveliest possessions.
- F. The angels are not overwhelmed and taken up with the beautiful things around them. They think of these as extra and as the work of God, and they see the Lord's great power and mercy in them.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. During the last few weeks we've talked about what some things are like for the angels in heaven— about a wedding there, about the angels' homes and clothing, about the work they do, and about how the Lord appears to them.
- 2. Today we're going to read a story that describes what one typical day might be like for an angel couple in heaven. One of the angels is named Lauren. You may remember that she was the schoolteacher for young girls in our story a while back called "Jenny Belongs."
- 3. Some of the ideas in today's story you've heard before, but some are new. Listen while I read it, and see if you notice the new ideas you haven't heard before.

B. Read/Tell the Story

- 1. Read the attached story, "This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made."

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Ask the children what ideas from the story sounded like things they already knew, and what ideas sounded new. Naturally, they won't all agree on what is new and old!
2. What is it that the angel couple woke to hear each morning? (Girls singing)
3. Do you remember what's special about the singing? (It's about the Lord and heavenly life, and it makes all who hear feel happy and close to the Lord.)
4. When the song ends, what is the first thing the married couple in our story did? (Prayed together to the Lord)
5. What sorts of things grew in Michael and Lauren's garden? (Fruit trees; red, white, and bluish-purple [hyacinthine] roses; flowers that sparkled as if of gold or jewels)
6. What were Michael's and Lauren's jobs? (Studying in library and helping others understand the ideas he learned; teaching young girls)
7. Do all the angels in heaven do what Michael and Lauren do? (No, there are many, many different kinds of work for the angels to do.)
8. Where did Lauren see the Lord when she went outside and looked? (Saw His face in the sun)
9. While Lauren was teaching school, where did Michael go, and what did he do? (Went to congratulate newly married couple at their home, then taught young men in the wedding garden outside their house about marriage and conjugal love.)
10. Did you notice what was unusual about the wedding garden? (There were 2 of every kind of shrub and flower.)
11. While Michael was teaching in the wedding garden, the Lord gave him three signs to show him that he should say more about marriage to the young men. What were those three signs? (Red lightning on right; white lightning on left; gentle murmur of thunder)
12. By lunchtime all angels in heaven are finished with their work for the day. While Lauren and Michael ate lunch, they talked together about their morning's work. What was the problem that Julie, one of Lauren's students, had been having at school? (She wasn't trying her best and so kept getting spots on her clothes.)
13. What did Lauren and the girls talk about at school to try to help Julie? (That the Lord needs all of us to do our best.)
14. After lunch Michael and Lauren went for a walk through their community. Do you remember what clothes they wore? (Lauren: blue gown embroidered with silver flowers. Michael: white robe that shone with silvery light)
15. Where were some places that Michael and Lauren walked, and what were some things they did? (Visited angel couple who were their close friends; went to meadow where children came to play each afternoon; temple; concert)

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16. In the stone temple Michael and Lauren saw the Word on the altar. What did it look like? (Shone like a great star; beautiful light around it like rainbows)
17. Do you remember what kinds of musical instruments were playing in the concert in the center of town? (Violins, flutes, horns)
18. After walking through their community in the afternoon, Michael and Lauren returned home for dinner. What was their dining room table like? (Gold set with rubies) Remember that the more important an angel's work is, the fancier are his home, garden, clothes, and other things he has.
19. Where did Michael and Lauren's food come from? (The Lord)
20. What did they do after dinner? (Read from the Word, prayed together)
21. Michael and Lauren were very happy in their life together and in their work for the Lord, so happy that they couldn't imagine ever being happier. But they knew that the Lord makes all His angels happier and happier the longer they live in heaven and do His will. The Lord is truly marvelous! We're lucky to know this; we can look forward to being happier and happier for the rest of our lives— forever!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made," copy attached. (Used for Unit I, so some children should already know it.)
2. "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

- C. Project: Have children work together on a mural that shows the different things Michael and Lauren did during the day, beginning with rising in the morning at the left end, and ending with reading and praying together at the right end.

IV. Teaching Aids

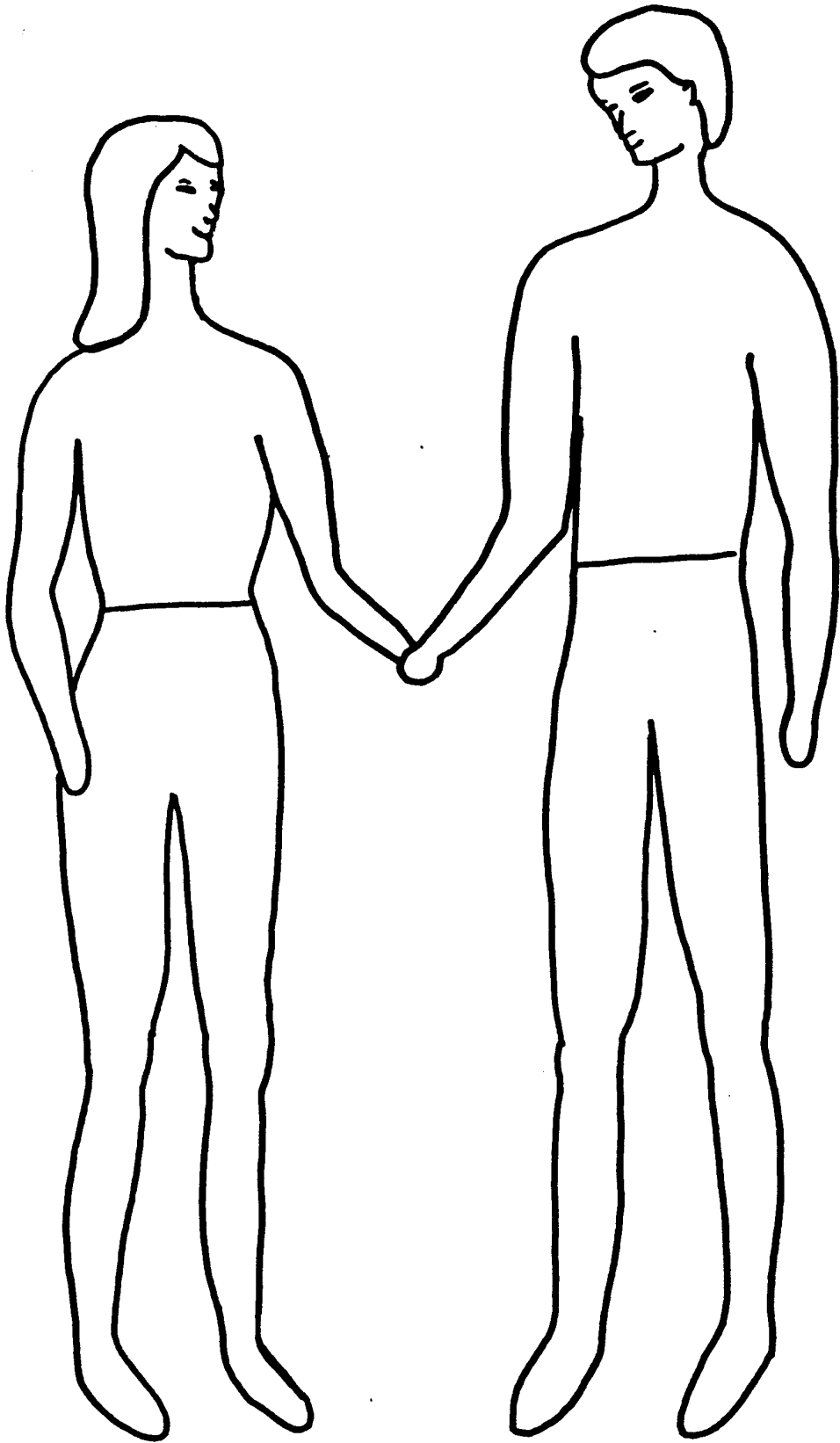
- A. Illustration No. 13 from *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss ("The Lord's Face in the Sun of Heaven").
- B. Illustration No. 14 from *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss ("A Husband and Wife at Home in Their Garden").
- C. Illustration No. 17 from *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss ("A Library in Heaven").

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D. Illustration from *Heaven's Happiness* (retold by John Odhner), p. 37,
"Every morning we hear the sweetest songs of maidens and girls."

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

A. *The Spiritual World* by Hugo Odhner, Chapter 16, "A Day in an Angelic Society."



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THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE

It was morning. The sun was shining brightly again. In a beautiful stone house, a husband and wife lay sleeping. The woman awoke and listened for the morning song that would welcome the new day. There it was!

"Michael!" she said. "Are you awake?" Her husband opened his eyes and smiled at her. He always woke up as soon as the song began, but she always worried that he would miss some of it.

"It's lovely, isn't it, Lauren?" Michael said softly. They listened quietly to the rest of the song.

The young girls were singing, and everyone in the community woke up to their sweet song each morning. It gave the angels wonderful feelings about the Lord and life in heaven.

When the morning song had ended, Lauren and Michael prayed to the Lord. "Help us to do Your will," they said as they finished their prayer.

They went for a walk in their garden before breakfast. There were many beautiful fruit trees. There were rose bushes with red, white, and bluish purple [hyacinthine] roses. And there were other flowers that sparkled as if they were made of gold or jewels. There was a little stream near the end of the garden. Michael saw a deer drinking from the stream, and he motioned so Lauren would see it too.

During breakfast, they talked of their plans for the day. They were eager to do their work each morning.

"The Lord has shown me a way to help Julie," Lauren told Michael. "I can hardly wait to see her today!" Lauren was a teacher. She loved to teach young girls about life in heaven.

"I am going to congratulate the couple who was married yesterday," said Michael. "There will be some young men there who are ready to hear about marriage." Michael was a wise man. He worked in the community library, studying the books of wisdom there. And he liked helping other people understand the wonderful ideas he learned about.

When breakfast was over, Lauren stepped out into the bright sunshine. She looked to see the Lord in the sun. She knew He was always there, but it made her feel closer to Him when she saw His face in the fiery sun of heaven. Lauren continued on her way to school, eager to teach the young girls in her care.

Michael walked along a road with beautiful fruit trees on each side. Then he came to a house where a special wedding garden had appeared. There were two of every kind of shrub and flower in the garden: two olive trees, two grapevines, two laurels, two rose bushes, and two of every other flower in the garden. It was very beautiful.

Michael went into the house, and there he found the husband and wife, holding hands and talking together. They were a handsome couple, and they seemed very happy.

"Congratulations on your marriage," Michael said warmly. "I wish you every happiness." Then he went out into the wedding garden. He began to talk about

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marriage. As if drawn by a magnet, many young men hurried into the garden to hear Michael speak.

"The Lord leads everyone in heaven to find a marriage partner. They will be just right for each other. And He will give them a special marriage love called conjugal love. They will be best friends, and they will be very happy together. They will want to think and feel as one person, and they will even look like one angel from a distance."

Michael told the young men these things about marriage and many more. There was lightning in the sky once— red lightning on the right and bright white lightning on the left. There was a gentle murmur of thunder also. These were signs that he should say more about marriage. When he was finished speaking, the young men went home gladdened by all they had heard and seen.

Lauren and Michael had luncheon at home together. They enjoyed talking about the work they had done during the morning.

"Did you have a good morning?" asked Michael.

Lauren's beautiful face shone with joy. "Everything went very well. Julie had been unhappy lately. She wasn't trying to do her best in school, and she kept getting spots on her clothes. Today we talked about what would happen if we all did our jobs without trying to do our best. The girls realized how much the Lord needs all of us to do our very best. I think Julie will try harder now. And what about you, Michael? How was your morning?" Lauren asked.

"The new angel couple are very happy together," he said. "I wished them happiness, and then I went into the beautiful wedding garden the Lord made for them and spoke to some young men there. They were ready to hear true ideas about marriage, and I think it went well. The Lord sent lightning and a murmur of thunder to help me know what to say."

After lunch they walked through the community hand in hand. They were a lovely couple. Lauren was gentle and beautiful, dressed in a blue gown embroidered with silver flowers. Michael, strong and handsome, was clothed in a white robe that shone with a silvery light. They met many friends and stopped to talk with them. They spent a long time visiting with one couple they felt very close to; it seemed as if they had known them forever.

Michael and Lauren walked to a meadow where the children came to play each afternoon. Sometimes Lauren watched her students while they played here, but today one of the angel mothers was watching them. But Lauren looked for Julie among the girls, and she was pleased to see that she looked much happier.

Next they walked to the temple of their community and went in. It was a beautiful stone building, like a cathedral. The Word on the altar shone before their eyes like a great star. And there was a beautiful light around it that shone like rainbows. They liked to come here occasionally. It was a quiet place to think about the Lord.

When Lauren and Michael left the temple, they walked to the center of the town and heard a beautiful concert of violins, flutes, and horns. What wonderful music!

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The light began to grow dim, so Lauren and Michael started for home. Someone stopped them on their way. Because Michael was so wise, the man wanted to ask him a question. Of course, Michael was happy to help him.

When they reached home, they walked through the garden until it was time for dinner. Then they went into their beautiful stone house and into the dining room. They sat at a gold table set with rubies, and they could still see the garden through the window. There were platters of delicious food on the table, and they ate their fill.

After dinner, Michael and Lauren read from the Word and prayed together. Then they talked together about many things.

Before they went to sleep, Lauren said, "How could we ever be happier than we are now? I know the Lord will give us more and more happiness, but it's hard to imagine."

Michael answered her. "I thank the Lord for all His blessings— especially our love. The Lord is truly marvelous!" (*Conjugal Love* 17, 316; *True Christian Religion* 209)



