

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 23
How We Get to Heaven

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. A person's ruling love guides him along a road that leads to his home in heaven or hell.
- B. It is the Lord's will that all people go to heaven, but He leaves us in freedom to decide for ourselves.
- C. Everything good is from the Lord. Everything evil is from hell.
- D. Angels from heaven and spirits from hell are attached to every person. Each of us has two guardian angels and two evil spirits from hell with us at all times. The angels and evil spirits are not aware of who we are or of what we're doing, but they are aware of our spiritual states.
- E. The angels perceive nothing more delightful than to remove evils from a person and lead him to heaven. (AC 5992)
- F. The Lord will lead us to heaven if we look to Him and follow the teachings of His Word.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Today's lesson is the last one we'll be having about the spiritual world and the life after death.
 - 2. We've learned a lot about the spiritual world:
 - a. We've learned about the world of spirits where people wake up when they have died, and where they get ready for heaven or hell.
 - b. We've learned about heaven: children growing up there and angels doing their work and recreating.
 - c. And we've talked about hell.
 - 3. Today we are going to talk about how we can get to heaven.
- B. Read the Story
 - 1. Read the attached description, "The Road to Heaven."

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 23

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Why does the Lord want us to go to heaven? (Because He wants us to be happy) Does He make us go to heaven? (No, He lets us choose between heaven and hell.)
2. Who helps us get to heaven? (The Lord and our two guardian angels)
3. Who tries to keep us from going to heaven? (The evil spirits)
4. Our life in this world is like a road, and when we do something good, we move along that road closer to heaven. What happens when we do something wrong? (We walk the other way on the road— away from heaven.)
5. After we do something wrong, can we turn around and walk toward heaven again? (Yes. If we are sorry, the Lord will help us turn around and walk toward Him again.)
6. Why do some good people stay in the world of spirits a long time, and others only a short time? (Some good people draw very close to heaven on their road while they live in the world, so after they die, they are ready for heaven very quickly. Others have a long way to go on their roads still, so they stay in the world of spirits longer.)
7. What are some of the things we can do to help ourselves walk the road toward heaven? (Obey the Lord, thank Him, pray to Him; be kind and helpful to others; do our work well at home and school; be the best person we know how to be)
8. Is it hard to get to heaven? (No, not really. The Lord will help us if we let Him.)
9. If we walk the road to heaven while we live in the world, what will we see when we go to the spiritual world? (We'll see the road leading us up into heaven where the Lord will have a home ready for us. And we'll be happy forever.)

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "You Shall Love the Lord Your God With All Your Heart and Mind," FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, p. 7.
2. "Angel Song," Lori Soneson Odhner.
 - a. See attached sheet music.
 - b. You can listen to the song on LORI'S SONGS II, Side 2, near the end of the tape.

D. Activities

1. A board game of the road to heaven while we are on earth. Good actions (listening to the angels) move players forward, evil actions (listening to the evil spirits) move players backward.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 23

2. An activity in which the children can step toward "heaven" when the teacher says something good to do, backward when the teacher says something wrong to do. Perhaps as part of the lesson discussion, the teacher can write down the children's ideas of good and bad things to do and use these ideas for the activity.

E. Project: Picture Yourself in Heaven— An Angel-Self-Portrait

1. Make 12" poster board figures and dress these with fabric or wallpaper samples, yarn hair, sequins, lace, decorative cord, etc. Children will enjoy using luxurious fabric scraps and other "fancy stuff" to make "themselves" look like angels. (Or, draw themselves on white paper or colored paper and glue on clothing, hair, *etc.*)

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustration No. 8 *from Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss ("Roads to Heaven: Working, Worshiping, Loving"). (Could photocopy and distribute for take home.)

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapter 8.
- B. *Heaven And Hell*, Chapter 55, "Leading a Heaven-Bound Life is Not as Hard as People Believe it is."

THE ROAD TO HEAVEN

You are walking on a road that leads to heaven, but you can't see the road. The Lord wants you to get to heaven because heaven is such a happy place. He helps you walk along the road toward heaven. And your guardian angels help you, too. Whenever you do something good and think kind thoughts, you walk toward heaven. And the Lord and the angels are very happy.

Sometimes you might turn away from the Lord and do something wrong. Then the Lord and the angels are sad because when you listen to the evil spirits instead of the Lord, you are walking the other way on the road— away from heaven. But if you are sorry about doing the wrong thing, the Lord will help you turn around and walk toward Him again.

Do you remember when we learned about the world of spirits— the place where people go after they die to get ready for heaven or hell? Some good people stay in the world of spirits for a long while before they are ready to live in heaven. But other good people have walked along a road that brings them close to heaven even while they lived in the world, so the Lord can take them to heaven right away. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be all ready for heaven when you finally go to the spiritual world?

What can you do to walk toward heaven along your road? Obey the Lord. Thank Him for all He gives you. Pray to Him to help you be good. Be kind to people, and look for ways to help them. Do your work well at home and at school. Try to be the best person you know how to be. When you do these things, the Lord will be able to lead you closer and closer to heaven. And when you enter the spiritual world, you will see the road and continue following it right up into heaven. Do you know what you will find there? The beautiful home and the married partner that the Lord has prepared for you. And you will be happy forever.

(Adapted from *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss Chapter 8.)