

General Church Education



Emanuel Swedenborg Servant of the Lord

True Christian Religion 779

Lesson 25

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG, SERVANT OF THE LORD

TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGION 779

In this lesson we focus on the calling of Emanuel Swedenborg to be a servant of the Lord. The beautiful spiritual truths in the Writings for the New Church were written by Swedenborg at the command of the Lord. They explain the internal meaning of the Scriptures and they tell of the Lord's purpose for creation: a heaven from the human race. These truths also describe how we can resist evil by service to Him and to the neighbor and join the Lord in heaven where He will give us eternal joy. This revelation is the second coming of the Lord as foretold in the Gospel of John: "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth." John 16:13

IDEA FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- Swedenborg was heroic in his pursuit of spiritual truth and in his diligent obedience to the Lord's calling. We can see people at this day who appear to follow a calling by the Lord to serve others. We can share our ideas with our children about this way of looking at heroism in contrast to the common model of sports figures and superstars.

FROM THE WRITINGS

The literal sense of the Word is called 'the clouds of heaven', its internal sense 'power and glory.' The internal sense, in every single detail, focuses exclusively on the Lord and His kingdom. Consequently it is this spiritual sense contains power and glory. See *Arcana Coelestia* 49

It has pleased the Lord to manifest Himself to me, and to send me to teach those things which will belong to His New Church. For this purpose He has opened the interiors of my mind or spirit, whereby I have been permitted to be in the spiritual world with angels, and at the same time in the natural world with men *True Christian Religion* 851

In the new church it is permitted with the understanding to approach and penetrate all its secrets, and also to support them from the Word. The reason is that its doctrines are a series of truths revealed by the Lord through the Word; and proving them by rational argument causes the understanding to be opened up above more and more. This lifts it into the light enjoyed by the angels of heaven; and that light is in essence truth, and it makes the acknowledgment of the Lord as the God of heaven and earth shine out in all its glory. *True Christian Religion* 508

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IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord came into the world a second time through the Writings for the New Church.

The Lord told His humble servant, Emanuel Swedenborg, to write down His Divine Truth so people could learn more about Him and His pathway to heaven.

Today we are going to learn about part of the Word called the Writings for the New Church. It is also called the Heavenly Doctrine. After the Lord's life on earth, His disciples preached His truth and baptized in His name. This was the beginning of the Christian Church. The Christian Church grew as people's hearts and minds were fed by the Lord's goodness and truth found in the Word.

However many people forgot important parts of the Lord's message. Many began to think that they could go to heaven if they believed in the Lord. They forgot that they had to offer useful service to the neighbor or obey the Word to go to heaven. The Lord wants everyone to live with Him in heaven, so He came into the world a second time. He didn't come as a little baby again. He gave us wonderful truths about living a good life that are so clear they can never be misunderstood. These truths, are the second coming of the Lord.

Emanuel Swedenborg was chosen by the Lord to do this important work. He was born in Sweden more than three hundred years ago. His parents taught him about the Lord as a child. He loved to read the Word and learned the Ten Commandments. When he became an adult, he studied hard and learned many things about nature and the world of science. He used the things that he learned to help his country. He became very famous for his great knowledge and service. He even received praise and honor from the king of Sweden.



Swedenborg was always interested in spiritual things. He read the Word, looking for information about heaven and the life after death. He often prayed to the Lord for answers. The Lord answered Swedenborg's prayers in a miraculous way. He opened his spiritual eyes so that he could see into the spiritual world to talk with spirits and angels.

Listen to what Swedenborg says about the work the Lord was calling him to do.

The Lord's second coming is taking place by means of a man, to whom He has shown Himself in person, and whom He has filled with His spirit, so that he may teach the doctrines of the new church which come from the Lord through the Word.

I bear true witness that the Lord has shown Himself to me, His servant, and sent me to do this work. After this He opened the sight of my spirit, thus bringing me into the spiritual world, and allowing me to see the heavens and the hells, and also to talk with angels and spirits. I have been doing this now for many years. From the first day of my calling I have not received any instruction about the doctrines of the church from any angel, but only from the Lord, while I was reading the Word. *True Christian Religion 779.*

The Lord Himself told Swedenborg to write and publish the truths he learned. This is "the Lord's second coming." At the Lord's command, He wrote and published many books explaining the Heavenly Doctrine. Swedenborg was humble. He never wanted people to think the ideas in the books were his own. Everything in the books came "from the Lord." That is why we say that Emanuel Swedenborg was a servant of the Lord. When we do what the Lord asks us to do, as Emanuel Swedenborg did, we too can be called the Lord's servants.



DISCUSSION

- The Heavenly Doctrine was written, at the command of the Lord, by Emanuel Swedenborg. Do you remember from our lesson that we also call this the second coming of the Lord? Why did the Lord come into the world again? (*Answers include - many people had forgotten about obeying the Word and thought that believing in the Lord was enough, the Lord wanted to be sure that everyone could learn about Him and the way to heaven.*)
- We have read other stories that tell about people forgetting to obey the Lord. Can you remember some of these stories? Try looking back at the pictures from earlier lessons. You may find hints in the pictures. (*Edam and Eve, the giants at the time of Noah, people living at the time of the Lord's birth.*)
- What miracle happened to Swedenborg when the Lord called him to do His work? (*The Lord opened his eyes so that he was able to see into the spiritual world. The Lord allowed Swedenborg to travel in the spiritual world and speak to spirits and angels.*)
- Who told Swedenborg what he should write down? (*The Lord.*)
- Swedenborg listened to the calling of the Lord and worked for many years on the special job the Lord gave Him. He is like a hero because he was so faithful a worker for such a long time. Do you think the Lord calls people at this day to serve Him in heroic ways? Can you think of some one you know who serves the Lord in a special way?

Maybe a friend or someone in your family? Maybe someone that you have heard about in the news? Talk about some modern heroes that you know. Why are they heroes?

(Answers will vary and may include parents, soldiers, police, doctors, etc.)



EMANUEL SWEDENBORG, SERVANT OF THE LORD

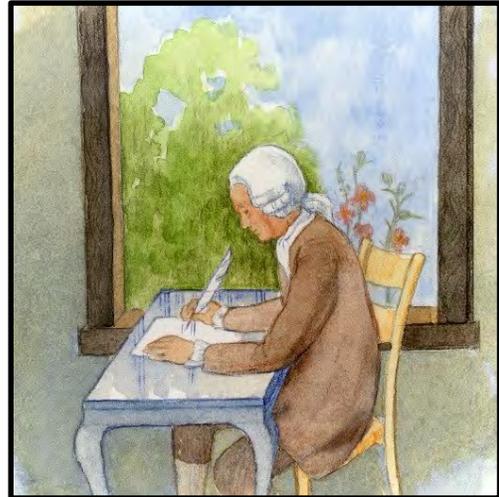
| Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

Well done, good and faithful servant.... Enter into the joy of your Lord.

Matthew 25:23



When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- Jesus Is My Friend Most Precious

Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-jesus-is-my-friend-most-precious/>

This is a song that Emanuel Swedenborg sang when he was a child. It is in Swedish, the language he spoke, as well as English, so you can understand the words.

Projects

- Emanuel Swedenborg Servant of the Lord
- Picture to color

Emanuel Swedenborg Servant of the Lord

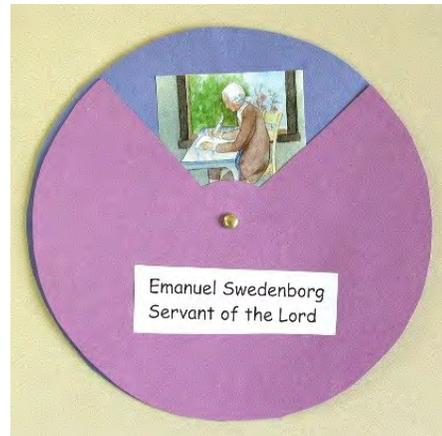
This project shows how the Lord made His Second Coming through Emanuel Swedenborg.

Supplies needed

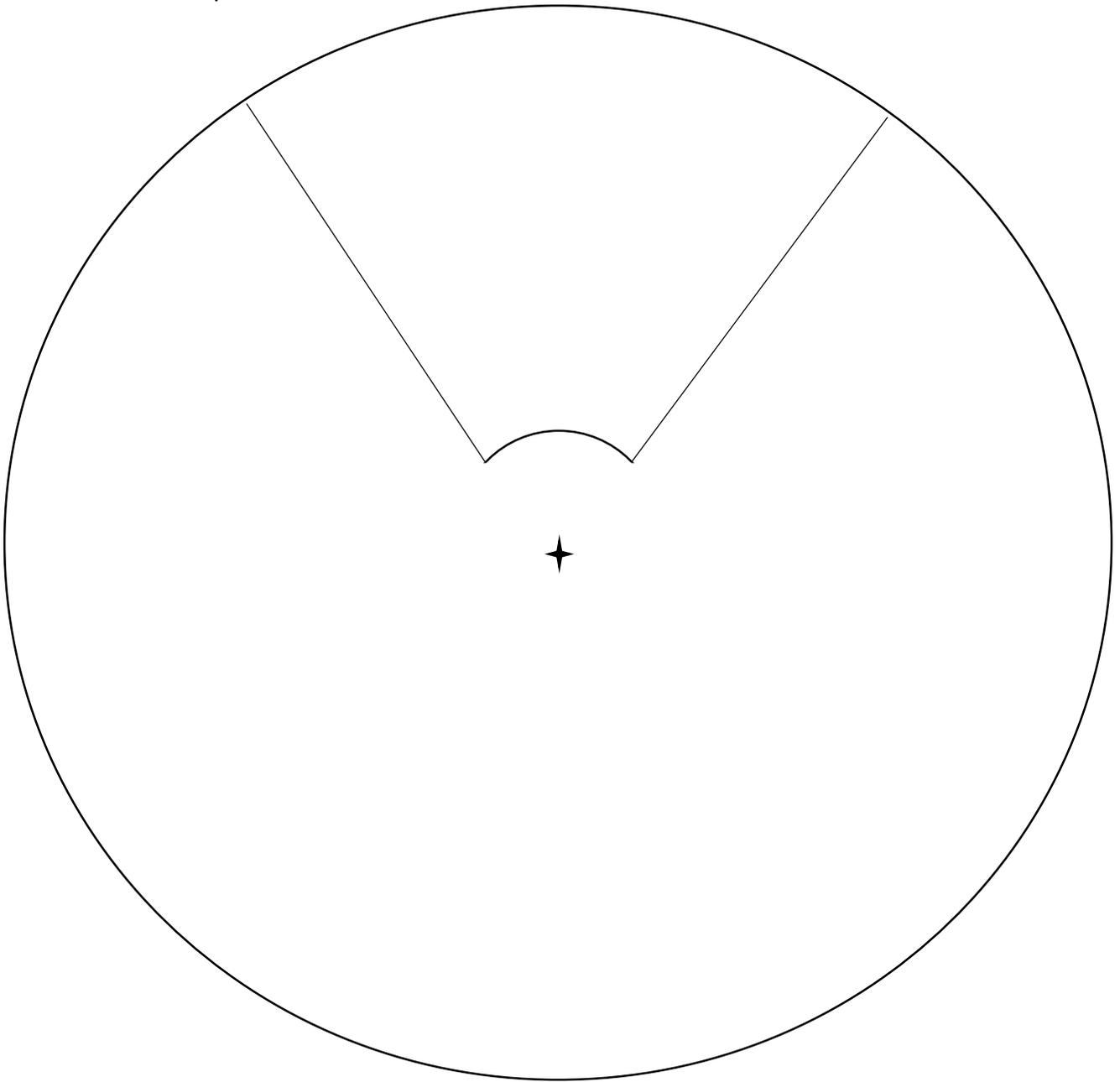
- 1 piece purple paper approx. 9"x12" (23cm x 30cm)
- 1 piece blue paper approx. 9"x12" (23cm x 30cm)
- 1 circle template
- 1 brass brad (paper fastener)
- 1 white printed paper
- scissors
- glue

Directions

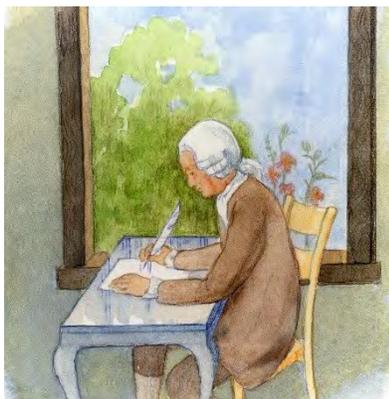
1. Using the circle template, cut a circle out of the purple and blue pieces of paper.
2. Cut a window as marked out of the purple paper only.
3. Cut around the three pictures: the Lord holding the open Word, heaven, and Emanuel Swedenborg writing at his desk. Glue these pictures to the blue paper. Space them out around the circle with the bottom of each picture towards the center of the wheel.
4. Place the purple circle over the blue one and connect them in the center with the brad.
5. Cut out around the printed words of the title for your project and glue it on the purple paper below the window and the brad. Or, copy the words and write them on the purple paper yourself.
6. Now turn the circle with the window to show how the Second Coming of the Lord came about. First the Lord appeared to Emanuel Swedenborg and opened the Word to him, then the Lord opened Swedenborg's spiritual eyes so that he could see heaven, and then Swedenborg wrote down what he saw and heard so that all people for all times can know heavenly truths.

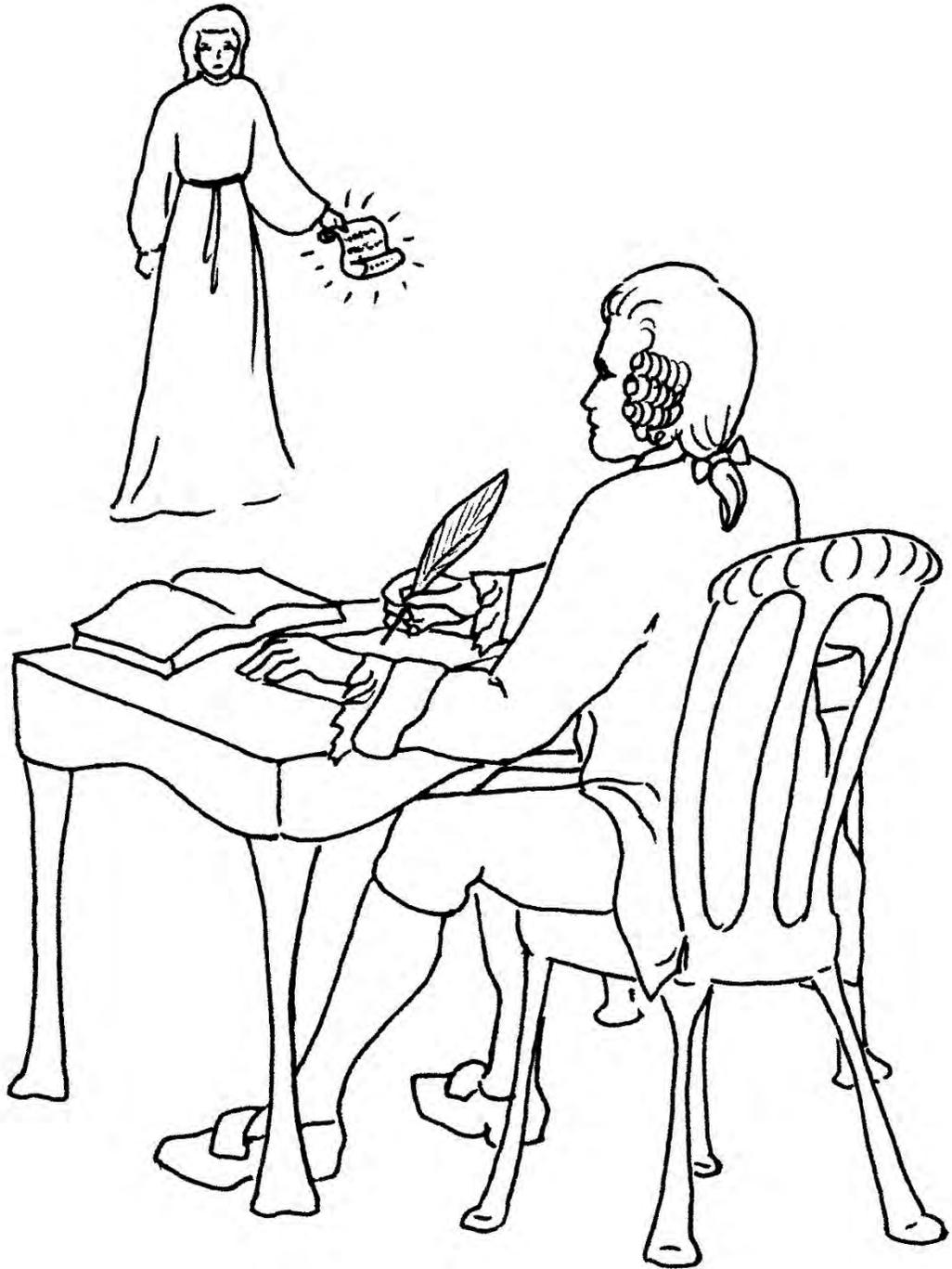


Circle Template



Emanuel Swedenborg
Servant of the Lord





Recitation Award | Lesson 25

