

General Church Education



The Lord in Heaven

Heaven and Hell 118, Joshua 1:9

Lesson 25

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

The Lord in Heaven

Heaven and Hell 118, Joshua 1:9

Ideas for Parents & Teachers

This lesson introduces the idea that the natural world depends on the spiritual world and that the Lord created everything from His pure love. These are advanced concepts. The main point in this lesson is that the Lord loves us and gives us the opportunity to love Him in return. This must be by choice because love can only be given freely.

Knowing about heaven is very comforting to children. All of us feel secure knowing that the Lord is in charge of everything and that He is always with us, trying to show us the way to heavenly happiness. These ideas are demonstrated in this lesson by showing that the Lord is seen in the Sun of heaven which is always visible whatever way an angel turns.

Ideas for Children

- The Lord created a natural world and a spiritual world, two beautiful places for us to live in.
- The Lord is seen in the sun of heaven, and He gives us love and wisdom.
- The Lord gave us a natural sun to give warmth and light for our natural bodies.
- The Lord is always in the hearts and minds of angels.

From the Writings

The Lord created the universe and everything in it by means of the sun which is the first emanation of His Divine love and wisdom. By the Lord we mean God from eternity or Jehovah, who is called the Father and the Creator. *Divine Love and Wisdom 151*

Take care not to think that the spiritual world's sun is actually God. God Himself is a person. The first emanation from His love and wisdom is something fiery and spiritual that looks like a sun to angels. When the Lord makes Himself visible to angels in person, then He does so in human form, sometimes within the sun, sometimes outside it. *Divine Love and Wisdom 97*

The reason the spiritual world's sun appears at a distance from angels is that they accept divine love and wisdom at an accommodated level of warmth and light. They accept the Lord at the level of warmth and light that matches their own love and wisdom. *Divine Love and Wisdom 110*

People, as to the interiors of their minds, are warmed and illuminated by that same [spiritual sun]. They are warmed by its heat and illuminated by its light in the measure in which they receive love and wisdom from the Lord. The difference between angels and people is that angels are under the spiritual sun only. But people are not only under that sun but also under the sun of this world. For people's bodies can begin and continue to exist only under both suns; but not so the bodies of angels, which are spiritual. *Divine Love and Wisdom 112*

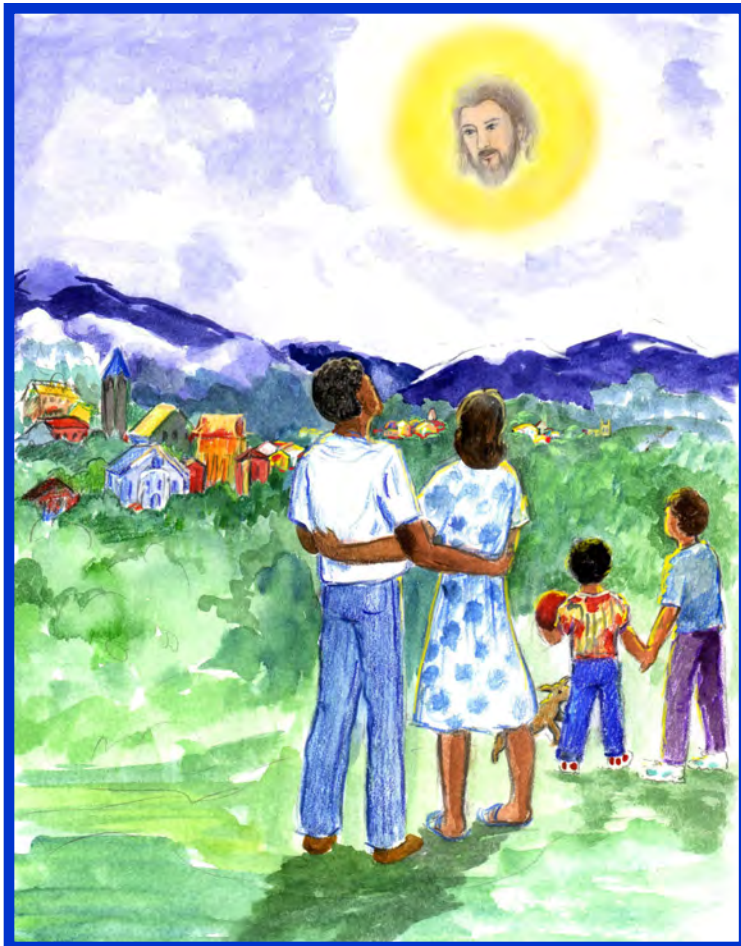
The Lord in Heaven

We know that the Lord is in heaven. Do you know where the Lord is in heaven? Do you think the angels see the Lord?

Remember how the Lord opened Emanuel Swedenborg's spiritual eyes so that he could see into heaven. The Lord wanted people to know about heaven so that all of us would want to live there with Him forever. Let's read now from *Heaven and Hell* to learn how the angels see the Lord in heaven.

It has not only been told me by angels, but has also been granted to me at times to see that the Lord is actually seen in heaven as the sun. The Lord is seen as the sun not in heaven, but on high above the heavens: not directly over the head but before the faces of the angels, at a middle height. *Heaven and Hell* 118

Where do the angels see the Lord in heaven? (They see the Lord as a sun.) You know what our sun looks like, with the bright light and heat coming from it. The spiritual sun looks much the same only sometimes the angels see the Lord's face in it.



God Himself is a Man. Why do you think He appears as the sun of heaven? It is because His love is so strong, like a burning fire keeping us warm. His truth is like a bright light that shows us how to live. Some angels also see the Lord as a Man sometimes. He appears to them with a wonderful light around His head.

In the heavenly teachings we learn that there is always light in heaven. It is brighter when the angels are working and softer when the angels are resting. But the sun of heaven can always be seen. This is comforting to the angels because they can always see the Lord there. The angels can see the sun of heaven no matter which way they turn because the angels always love the Lord, so He is always in their minds and in their hearts.

If the angels can always see the Lord, do you think they can also feel Him present with them? Yes, they can! What a wonderful thing to be able to feel the Lord with you all the time. This is because the angels show kindness and helpfulness to others, both in the spiritual world and in the natural world. When you are doing good things because you love the Lord, you can feel His warm, loving presence with you. Have you ever had a warm, happy feeling when you were kind or helpful to someone? The Lord gives us a happy feeling in our hearts sometimes as well. This is similar to the joy of heaven. A husband and wife especially feel it when they live happily in love together.



Do you know what our natural sun is made of? Perhaps you have already learned that it is like pure fire. It will be hot for a long, long time. The heat and light that come from our sun are necessary for life on earth. The sun makes the plants grow and gives strength to people and animals.

Did you know that the natural sun depends on the sun of heaven, or the spiritual sun? The spiritual sun is made of pure love. Its heat and light are directly from the Lord. Everything in our universe was created by the Lord using the spiritual sun. And everything is kept going by means of it. The Lord not only created everything in the beginning, but He also keeps everything alive continually.

The Lord created a beautiful natural world for us to live in. All that He created was good and can help us live happy and satisfying lives. The Lord also created a beautiful spiritual world for us to live in. This is where we will live to eternity. The spiritual world looks a lot like this world, only much more beautiful. There you will find mountains and fields, rivers and lakes, gardens with flowers and trees. You can also see animals in the spiritual world. The angels are given houses, clothes and food. These things are more wonderful than anything we have on earth. The best thing is that the angels keep learning to eternity. This gives them great delight.

The light of that truth makes their world very beautiful. They see a picture of the Lord's love and wisdom in everything around them. They know and understand more and more of the wonderful truth told in the Word as they live forever in heaven.

Read Joshua 1:9. The Lord is with us wherever we go, in this life and the next. What do you think it will be like to see the Lord in heaven?

Turning to the Lord

We have learned that the angels see the Lord no matter which way they turn. In our lives on earth we must choose to “turn to the Lord.” We do this when we think about what the Lord wants us to do. Then our minds are turned toward Him. When we think about the Lord and the things we have learned from His Word, we are turning to Him and to heaven. When we obey the Lord, we feel some of the happiness the Lord is able to give the angels of heaven.

While we live on earth we have the choice of which way to turn. We make many choices every day. The Lord does not force us to do what is good and right. But He wants us to choose to turn to Him so that we can live in heaven forever and be truly happy. That is why He has given us these teachings about heaven, so that we can know what a wonderful life awaits those who love the Lord.



Discussion Questions

- Why did the Lord make two wonderful places for us to live? (He loves us and wants us to be truly happy.)
- What are some of the differences between the natural world and the spiritual world? (Everyone in heaven chooses to be good, things are more beautiful, the Lord can be seen in the sun, everything we need is provided by the Lord, such as homes, clothes and food.)
- How does the sunshine make you feel? How do you feel on dark, cloudy days?
- Why do you think the Lord lets each person choose to obey Him? (Love must be freely given. It cannot be forced.)

Activity Overview | The Lord in Heaven

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13,14

Song

How Wondrous Is the Sun of Heaven

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-how-wondrous-is-the-sun-of-heaven/>

Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | The Lord in the Sun of Heaven
- Activity 2 | Spiral Project
- Picture to color

Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch *What Heaven Is Like* at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-what-heaven-is-like/>

Activity 1 | The Lord in the Sun of Heaven

The angels see the Lord in the sun of heaven. The sun is before them at all times, just as the Lord is uppermost in their minds at all times. “Paint” a picture of the Lord in the sun of heaven using a coffee filter and washable magic markers. Frame with a paper plate and hang in a window.

Materials

coffee filter(s)
washable markers in sun colors such as yellow, orange, and red
crayons
spray bottle for water
paper plate(s)
paper tape such as masking tape, or stapler
scissors

Directions

1. Create a frame for the finished project by cutting the center out of a paper plate.
2. Using the crayons, draw the Lord’s face on a coffee filter. (*Hint: make a light pencil drawing and go over it with crayons.*)
3. Using washable markers draw sun colors on the back of the picture of the Lord. There is no need to cover the entire filter. Rays and areas of color will work fine.
4. Mount the coffee filter inside the plate (frame) using staples or paper tape.
5. Lightly spray the coffee filter with water so the magic markers run and look like water color paint. Allow to dry.
6. Hang in a window where light can come through the Lord’s face.



Activity 2 | Spiral Project

Create a spiral showing things you will see in heaven. Add a picture of yourself walking along the spiral path to heaven one day.

Materials

4 pieces of white stiff paper approx. 4"x
6" (10x15cm)

Spiral Template

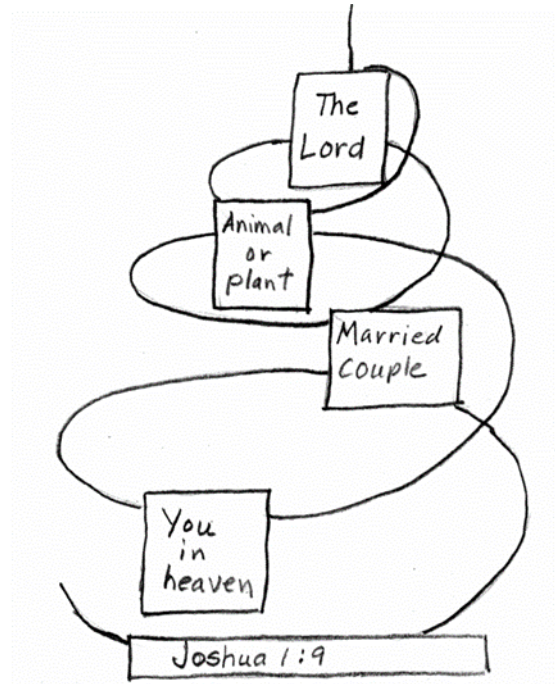
tape

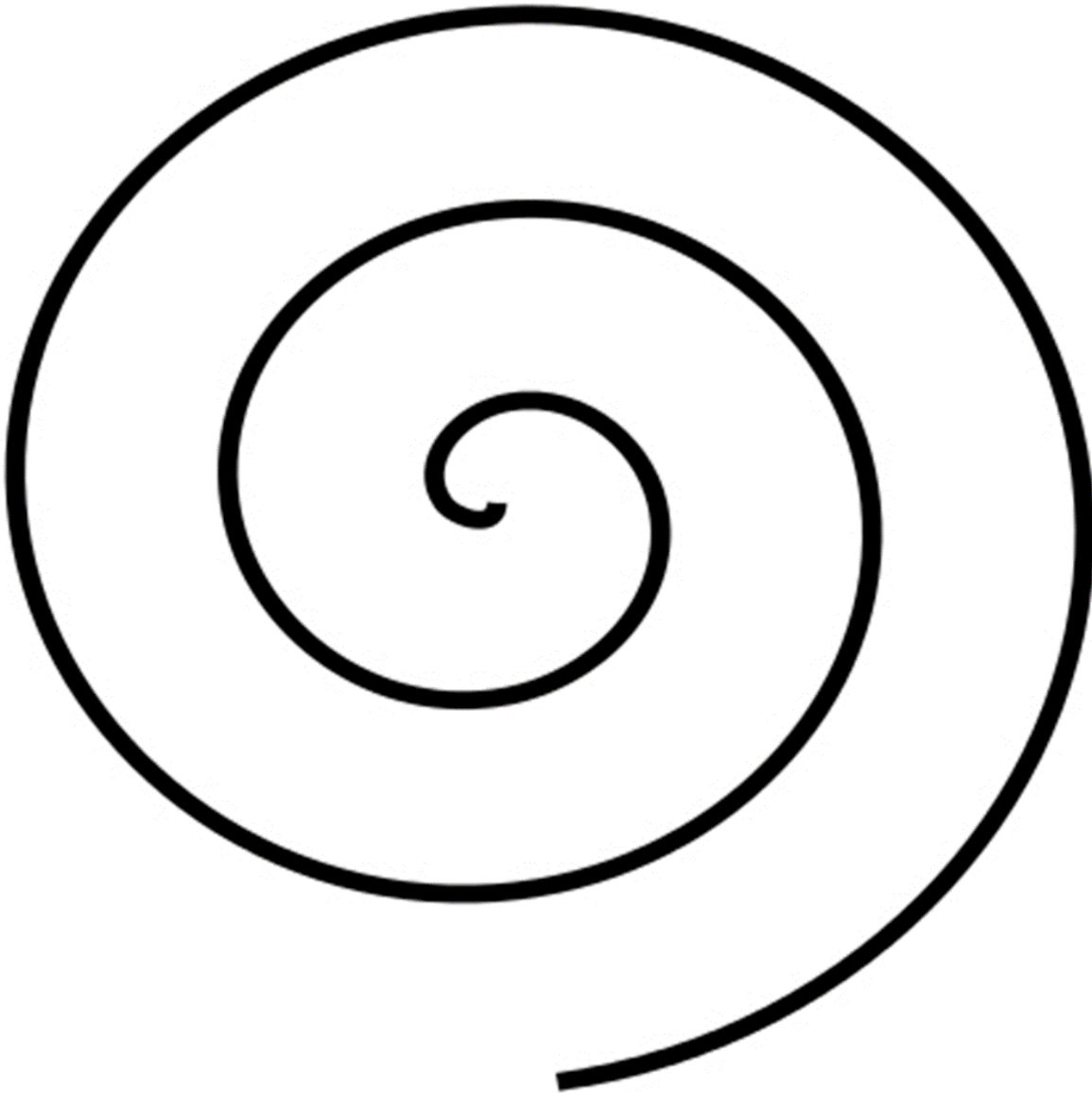
crayons, colored pencils or markers

ribbon or string to hang

Directions

1. Cut the spiral out along the lines.
2. Draw a picture of the Lord in the sun of heaven on one of the small pieces of stiff white paper. Be sure to put lots of light around Him! Tape the picture of the Lord to the middle of the spiral, since He is at the center of the lives of all who are in heaven.
3. Using a second small piece of paper draw a picture of a plant or animal you might see in heaven, or a mountain. Tape it near to the top of the spiral.
4. Using a third small piece of paper, draw a picture of a married couple in heaven, because everyone in heaven is married. Tape the picture to your spiral.
5. Draw a picture showing yourself in heaven. Tape it near the bottom of the spiral, showing your willingness to walk the path that leads to the Lord and heavenly happiness.
6. Cut the quote, The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9, out of the *Spiral Template* page. Tape to the bottom of the spiral.
7. Attach ribbon or string to the top of the spiral and hang the spiral up.





The Lord your God is with you
wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

