

General Church Education



New Church Day: The First Four Seals

Revelation 6:1-8; 19:11-16

Lesson 34

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

New Church Day: The First Four Seals

Revelation 6:1-8; 19:11-16

Ideas for Parents & Teachers

The book of Revelation was written by the disciple John, when he was on the Isle of Patmos. It contains visions about the future of the Christian Church and foretells the coming of the New Church. Horses represent our ability to understand truth. The four horses and their riders present a dramatic picture of the different responses people have to the Word. The white horse symbolizes a good use of truth that is applied to our lives to correct our faults. The red horse symbolizes truth that is used to find fault with and condemn others. The black horse symbolizes a focus on the letter instead of the spirit of the Word. The pale horse symbolizes a rejection of the Word because of selfish and greedy attitudes.

The last vision is of the Lord Himself, the Rider on the white horse. This symbolizes a true understanding of the Word and the power it gives to fight temptations. Children are not ready to understand the internal sense of these visions but may love the imagery of the four horses and eagerly accept the truth that the Lord is all-powerful. They can have confidence that He can be victorious over anything evil or hurtful and that we can be led to victory if we follow Him.

Ideas for Children

- The visions in the book of Revelation are prophecies of future events.
- The Lord came a second time through the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg and opened the seals of the scroll.
- The Lord is all-powerful and can lead us to victory if we follow Him.

From the Writings

In the Word there is a spiritual sense. The spiritual sense of the Word is not that sense which shines forth from the sense of the letter while one is studying and unfolding the meaning of the Word with intent to confirm some tenet of the church. This is the literal sense of the Word. The spiritual sense does not appear in the sense of the letter, being within it as the soul in the body, as thought in the eyes, and as affection in the face, which act as a one, like cause and effect. It is this sense chiefly which renders the Word spiritual, not for people only, but for angels also; and therefore by means of this sense the Word gives communication with the heavens. The spiritual sense is in all things of the Word, and in every single particular of it. *Doctrine of the Sacred Scriptures* 5

And out of His mouth a sharp two-edged sword going forth, means the dispersion of falsities by the Word. Mention is very often made in the Word of “sword,” “saber,” and “long sword,” and by them nothing else is signified but truth fighting against falsities and destroying them. That the dispersion of falsities by the Lord is here meant by the sword is evident, because, it was seen “to go out of His mouth;” and to go out of the mouth of the Lord, is to go out of the Word, for this the Lord spoke with His mouth. *Apocalypse Revealed* 52

New Church Day: The First Four Seals

It's fun to learn a secret, isn't it? Open the Word to the last book in the New Testament. What is the name of this book? (Revelation.) Do you know what it means to reveal something? If a friend knows a secret and reveals it to you, what does your friend do? That's right, your friend tells you the secret. Revealing something means to show or tell something that before was a secret or hidden. The visions in the book of Revelation revealed things that were to come.

The Lord told a special man to write these visions down. John was one of the Lord's disciples who followed Him when He lived on earth. John was a very good friend of the Lord. John loved to tell as many people as he could about the Lord and the Lord's special teachings of heaven. Then when John was an old man, the Lord appeared to him and showed him many wonderful visions of things that would happen in the spiritual world that the Lord wanted everyone to know about.

The Visions

In one of the visions the Lord appeared on a throne in heaven with four living creatures and



many elders, or wise people, worshipping Him. There appeared a scroll with writing on it. But it was sealed with seven seals and no one was able to open it. When it was time for the secrets inside to be revealed the Lord Himself opened the seals, one at a time. In this vision the Lord is called a Lamb because He is so gentle and innocent. Let's find out what happened when the first seal was opened.

Read Revelation 6:1-2. What color was the horse that appeared? (White.) What did the rider have? (A bow.) What was given to him? (A crown.)

This is a wonderful vision, isn't it? The white horse and the brave rider were going out to conquer. What do you suppose the rider would fight and conquer? Do you think He

would fight for what is right and good? Let's find out what happened when the second seal was opened.

Read Revelation 6:3-4.

What color was the second horse? (Fiery red.) What was given to this rider? (A sword.) What was this rider going to do? (Take peace from the earth so that people would kill each other.)

This does not sound good, does it? Let's see what happens when the third seal was opened.

Read Revelation 6:5-6.

What color was the third horse? (Black.) What did the rider have in his hands? (A pair of scales.)

Scales are used for measuring, so this rider was going out to measure things of the world.

Now let's find out what happened when the fourth seal was opened.

Read Revelation 6:7-8. What color was the fourth horse? (Pale.) Perhaps pale was a light gray or beige color. What was the name of the rider? (Death.) What power did he have? (To kill over a fourth of the earth.) Hades is another word for hell. So this rider was very evil.

John saw all these visions but he did not really know what they meant. He wrote them down as the Lord had told him to do. All these visions were describing things that would happen in the future.

When the time was right, a long time later, the Lord appeared to Emanuel Swedenborg and at this time the rest of the secret was told. The Lord let Swedenborg see into the spiritual world and told him what John's visions meant. Swedenborg obeyed the Lord and wrote down what he was told. This new revelation to Swedenborg was the Lord coming again so that everyone who wants to know can find out what these stories mean. These new teachings explain more fully than ever before why it is so important to follow the Lord. The Lord gave all the teachings in the Old and New Testaments in order to lead people to heaven. The Lord is always leading us toward heaven, like a good Shepherd.



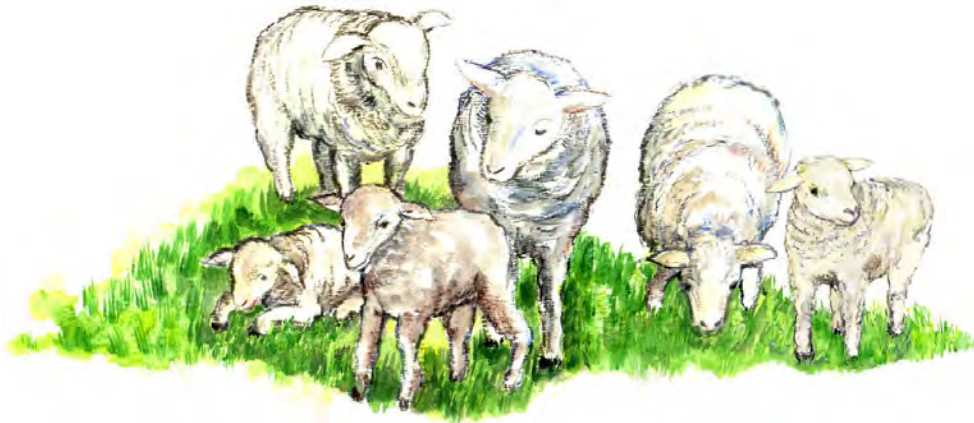
The Lord knows that each one of us sometimes has good thoughts and feelings. Other times we do what we know is wrong and then make excuses about it. These four horses and their riders describe those different times in our lives. When you are older, you will understand more of what these visions mean. For now you can understand the importance of making good choices and following the truth that we learn from the Lord's Word. Then the Lord will fight for us. We do not have to feel alone because He is always with us, fighting for us. And the Lord is stronger than anything so He will always conquer.

The Lord on the White Horse

Let's read about one more vision showing the Lord on a horse too. Listen for three names that are given to describe this Rider.

Read Revelation 19:11-16. What color was this horse? (White.) What were the names given for this Rider? (Faithful and True, The Word of God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.)

Yes, this is the Lord, strong and mighty. He has the power to conquer the evil spirits who try to get us to do bad things. All we need to do is to choose to follow Him and He will always fight for us.



Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the Lord revealed these secrets? (So that we will realize that we can choose to do what is good and know that the Lord will fight for us.)
- What kinds of battles do you have to fight? (Answers may include examples of trying to be kind to others in word and deed, trying to think of others and not just of self, trying to resist the urge to hit when angry, and so forth.)
- Which horse and horseman do you think was best and why?

Activity Overview | New Church Day: The First Four Seals

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21: 2-3

Song

The Four Horses

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-four-horses/>

Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Lord on a White Horse Mobile
- Activity 2 | Behold a Door Opened in Heaven
- Picture to color

Additional Activity Ideas

- If you have a model of a white horse, place it near your copy of the Word.
- Use a “stick horse” to re-enact the story.

Activity 1 | Lord on a White Horse Mobile

Create a mobile showing the Lord on a white horse with His names.

Materials

Lord on a White Horse Mobile Template

stiff paper for printing

scissors

optional: glue and glitter for decorating the mobile

ribbon or yarn for hanging

tape or stapler

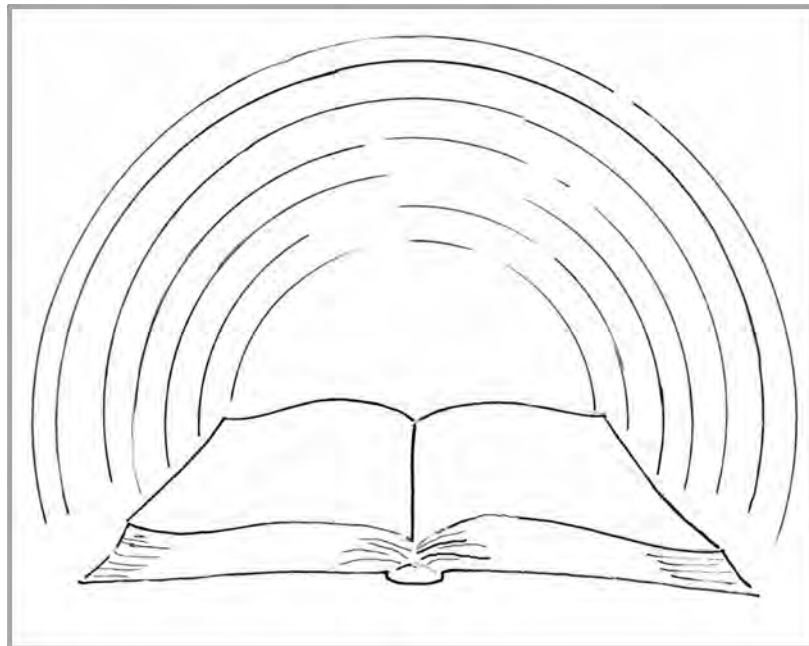
crayons, markers or colored pencils

Directions

1. Color the pictures.
2. *Optional:* decorate the mobile pictures with glue and glitter.
3. Lay the mobile pieces out as shown below.
4. Cut a length of ribbon or yarn long enough to string all of the pieces together and form a loop at the top of the mobile for hanging.
5. Tape the ribbon to the back of each mobile piece for hanging.
6. *Optional:* decorate mobile pieces with glue and glitter.



Lord on a White Horse Mobile Template



Lord on a White Horse Mobile Template

Faithful and True

King of Kings
and
Lord of Lords

Activity 2 | Behold a Door Opened in Heaven

The door opening in heaven means that the Lord is revealing secrets of heaven. Complete a project to illustrate the “secret” that angels are with us to lead and protect us.

Materials

- 1 light-colored piece of paper (e.g. white, yellow)
- 1 piece of paper of a dark color (e.g. brown, grey, etc.)
- scissors
- crayons, markers or colored pencils
- stapler
- optional*: photo of the child completing the project

Directions

1. Bend the dark colored paper in half along the longer edge and cut a rectangular “window” in the middle as shown on right.
2. Place the dark colored paper over the light colored paper so that the edges match. Staple the two pieces of paper together along the long edge.
3. Invite the child to draw a picture of him or herself inside the window space, on the bottom page of paper.
4. Lift the top piece to reveal the entire piece of paper underneath. Invite the child to draw a picture of an angel on each side of him or herself, as shown below.
5. Fold the top piece of paper back so only the picture of the child is showing. To our eyes it appears as if we are on our own. But the spiritual reality is that the Lord makes sure we have angels near us, guiding and protecting us as much as possible—without taking away our freedom.

