

General Church Education



# Laws in the Spiritual World

Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 22:36-40

## Lesson 22

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

## Laws in the Spiritual World

### Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 22:36-40

### For Parents and Teachers

This lesson focuses on the fact that order comes from the Lord and is evident in both the natural and spiritual worlds. The stability that comes from order is necessary before any kind of growth can take place. There are natural laws derived from the order of nature and spiritual laws derived from the order of heaven. The Ten Commandments are also the basis of all the laws of heaven. Awareness of these laws can show us how to bring order into our lives. One example from this lesson is that people in the spiritual world will know what you are like by your face. After death it is impossible to trick or confuse others by appearing to be what you are not.

Children of this age begin to understand that we choose heaven or hell by choices we make on earth as adults. Honesty, kindness and respect in all our words and actions build a heavenly character. Yet the Lord is always with us, even when we resist Him. He leads us to heaven just as He led the Children of Israel to the Promised Land.

### Ideas for Children

- The Lord is our Lawgiver.
- Laws in both the natural and the spiritual world are given to bring order and happiness to our lives and in society.
- All the laws for the children of Israel mirror the laws of order that exist in heaven.

### From the Writings

The Ten Commandments or Decalogue, and the other statutes declared and commanded from Mount Sinai, are truths intended not only for those who are on earth but also for those who are in heaven. All the words, that is, all the truths that come from the Lord are not merely for people in the world but also at the same time for angels; for they pass through heaven and thereby to earth.

But they do not sound the same in heaven as they do on earth, because there they exist in a spiritual form, whereas on earth they exist in natural form. What they are like in their spiritual form compared with what they are in their natural form is clear from the internal sense and the external sense of the particular things in the Word. In the internal sense they are spiritual matters, but in the external sense, which is the sense of the letter, they are natural ones. *Arcana Coelestia* 8862

## Laws in the Spiritual World

### Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 22:36-40

#### Words to Understand

**law**—any rule of behavior established and enforced by authority

**natural world**—where we live our earthly life

**spiritual world**—where we live in our spiritual bodies to eternity

#### Order in Our Life

Have you ever thought what your life would be like without laws? Of course, there are times when each of us might wish there were no laws so that we could do whatever we wanted. In a community or a country there must be laws so that there is order. When something is “in order” it is safe and works well. When people are in order they are productive, respectful and responsible. Laws bring order so people can get along and be useful. When everyone obeys the law, there is peace.

As an example of order and what it can do, think about your room. When it is in order you can find what you need because everything is in its place. How easy is it to find something you are looking for when your room is messy and you have not put your things away? Or think about the laws for driving on the road. What would happen if there were no rules for driving and everyone tried to drive their car in the middle of the street and there were no stop signs at intersections? You can imagine how difficult it would be to get anywhere! Order is very important both in this natural world and also in the spiritual world. This is the reason for laws or established rules of behavior.



#### The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

There are all sorts of laws. We have been learning about the most important laws of all, the Ten Commandments. The Lord is our Lawgiver because all order comes from Him. He creates order so His love can be present with us. In His Word the Lord gives us His laws so that we can enjoy our lives in this world and, most importantly, prepare for life in heaven. Laws are given in both the natural and the spiritual world. There are consequences when a law is broken. Do you wonder what kinds of laws there are in heaven? We already have a good idea of this because all the laws for the children of Israel

came from the laws of order that exist in heaven.

There was a time when Jesus was asked about the law. Certain Pharisees came to Him and tried to test Him by asking which is the great commandment in the law. He answered them by giving what we now call the “Two Great Commandments.” All of the other commandments fit into these two laws.

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:37-39. By the Law, Jesus meant the Ten Commandments that were given to the Israelites by Moses. By the Prophets, Jesus meant the books in the Old Testament written by the prophets who reminded the rebellious Israelites to come back to the Lord and obey Him. All the laws in the Old Testament are contained in these two simple commandments. If people paid attention to these two main rules, would we need other laws?

### **Read Exodus 34:29-35**

Did you notice what Moses’ face looked like? His face was shining so brightly that he covered it with a veil except when he was inside the tabernacle talking with the Lord. Why do you think his face was shining when he came down from the top of Mount Sinai? Moses had been with the Lord on the mountaintop for a long time. While Moses talked with the Lord, his face shone with the light from heaven. The Israelites could see that Moses was speaking from the Lord because his face continued to shine for a time. The light shining from Moses’ face gives us an idea of the Divine love and wisdom which are in the law given by the Lord through Moses.

### **Faces in the Spiritual World**

The angels in heaven sometimes appear as if their faces are shining. Their faces shine because they always see the Lord in the sun of heaven. The angels are comforted by having the Lord present with them wherever they go. Even when they are not looking directly at the Lord, He is close to them in their thoughts and this can be seen in the light of their faces. In the spiritual world, people look on the outside the way they are on the inside. All angels have beautiful faces that show kindness and love. The evil spirits in hell have distorted, ugly faces that show the hatred within. In this world we can pretend by changing our appearance in many ways. Some people are even skillful at lying. But in heaven no one can lie. Everyone will know the truth by looking at the face. In the spiritual world a person’s face always reflects what he or she is thinking or feeling inside.



If you didn't want anyone to know how you really felt, could you make yourself smile even though you felt sad? Can you pretend to be angry? Do people sometimes force themselves to cry or look sad because they want sympathy? Yes, in this world we can make ourselves look different than the way we feel inside for various reasons. It is not so in the spiritual world. People and things there always look like what they really are inside. This is another law that brings order and peace in heaven. It is why the angels are so beautiful. It is because of the love in their hearts.



### **The Lord Loves Everyone**

We are learning some of the wonderful things about the life in heaven. We might think that the Lord only cares for the angels. But in fact, the Lord cares for every- one, even those who have loved only themselves and end up in hell. Yes, the Lord provides that there are laws in hell as well. Evil spirits are not allowed to hurt others or to come near to those in heaven. He constantly leads them away from the evil things they desire so that their life is not any worse.

As King David says about the Lord in Psalm 139:8 “If I ascend into heaven You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.” Wherever people are, the Lord is constantly trying to pull them toward Him, making their life as good as possible. The important lesson for us is to learn the Lord’s laws so that the order of heaven can come into our hearts and minds. We will be happy when we come into the spiritual world to have others see what we are like on the inside.

### **Discussion Ideas**

- Talk about the importance of the rules children experience every day.
- Ask what kinds of laws children would make if they were in charge. Explore possible outcomes of these rules.

# Activity Overview | Laws in the Spiritual World

## 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 7:12, 14

## Songs

*Wake, Awake!*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-wake-awake-for-night-is-flying/>

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-lord-bless-you-and-keep-you/>

## Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Pair Angelic Qualities with their Opposites
- Activity 2 | Fill in the blanks: Laws in the Spiritual World
- Picture Yourself Obeying Laws

## Additional Activity Ideas

- Think of a rule or law you don't like. Talk about the reasons for not liking it. Then think about why the rule was given. Compare the reasons the rule was written with your reasons for not liking it.
- Make up rules for your classroom or home. Think about how the rules you make will help bring the joys of heaven's happiness into your classroom or family.
- Imagine what it would be like if there were no rules at all. What are some of the ways in which life would be different? Do you think people would be happier if there were no rules? Why or why not?

## Activity 1 | Pair Angelic Qualities with their Opposites

- Cut apart the qualities or activities listed below.
- See if you can match each one with something that seems to be its opposite.
- These opposites show us the choices we have each day to act in ways that make the Lord and the angels happy, or to act in ways that make evil spirits happy.

Appreciation	Courage	Fear
Helping	Hurting	Blame
Kind words	Complaining	Stealing
Thinking about the Lord and others	Forgiveness	Criticism
Hate	Being happy for others	Being jealous of others
Laziness	Honesty	Love
Gracious	Cheerful	“Prickly”
Grouchy	Thinking only about yourself	Disobeying parents
Kindness	Sharing	Meanness
Usefulness	Obeying parents	Telling lies

## Activity 2 | Fill in the Blanks: Laws in the Spiritual World

You will need a copy of the Word for this activity. Read the sentences below. Look up the missing word in your copy of the Word using the book, chapter and verse provided. Write the missing word on the line.

1. Moses did not know that the skin of his \_\_\_\_\_ shone. (Exodus 34:29)
2. The people were \_\_\_\_\_ to come near Moses. (Exodus 34:30)
3. Moses put a \_\_\_\_\_ on his face. (Exodus 34:33)
4. When Moses spoke to the \_\_\_\_\_ he took the veil off. (Exodus 34:34)
5. A lawyer asked Jesus to tell him which one was the great \_\_\_\_\_ . (Matthew. 22:36)
6. Jesus said to love the Lord with all your \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew. 22:37)
7. Jesus said you should love your \_\_\_\_\_ as yourself. (Matthew 22:39)
8. On these two commandments hang all the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 22:40)

Answers:  
1. face  
2. afraid  
3. veil  
4. Lord  
5. commandment  
6. heart, soul,  
mind  
7. neighbor  
8. Law, Prophets



## Picture Yourself Obeying Laws

There are laws in heaven just as there are laws on earth. The angels in heaven obeyed the laws on earth, so we know they will also obey the laws of heaven. Why does the Lord have laws in heaven?

The Lord has created His kingdoms, both earthly and heavenly, to be in order. To have order, there must be laws, so everywhere in the Lord's creation there are laws of order. There are even laws of order in hell. The Lord's laws are there so people on earth, angels in heaven and even evil spirits can be happy. There is no happiness without order.

We have rules or laws at home, at school, and in communities. Laws are there so you can be happy. Think about how the laws in your life help you to be happy. Then think about how the Lord's laws help you to be happy.

Use the space below to draw a picture of yourself obeying the Lord's laws, or the laws of your country.