

General Church Education



Marriage in Heaven

Genesis 2:21-24; *Conjugal Love* 19-20

Lesson 24

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

Marriage in Heaven

Genesis 2:21-24; *Conjugal Love* 19-20

For Parents and Teachers

Marriage is the most intimate of human relationships and has the potential to give us deep, genuine happiness in this world and in the next. The Writings help us understand the spiritual essence of marriage. Marriage is meant to be an eternal, holy covenant between a husband and wife with the Lord. It is a spiritual joining of husband and wife that affects every level of their being—soul, heart, mind, and body. In the New Church we call the love that inspires this spiritual union conjugal love. This “love of loves” is different from any other affection we might feel and can help us develop a strong bond with our closest friend that will last forever. It is given to all who love the Lord and obey His commandments.

Marriage is more than choosing the right partner. It requires patience and effort to make it work. Learning to be a loyal and kind friend as we mature helps us to be a loyal and kind husband or wife. If we look at the problems in marriage as opportunities for us to grow spiritually, we will not become discouraged. Keeping our thoughts on what is eternal gives us good reason to persevere through the challenges.

Ideas for Children

- Marriage is forever.
- The Lord provides happy marriages for everyone in heaven.
- Married partners are so close that they appear as one from a distance.

From the Writings

Conjugal love from its Divine origin is celestial, spiritual, holy, pure, and clean, above every other love which is from the Lord with the angels of heaven and the people of the church. *Conjugal Love* 64

The only people who can acquire and enjoy conjugal love are those who approach the Lord, love the truth the church teaches and do the good deeds it prescribes. *Conjugal Love* 70

The states of conjugal love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, full confidence, and a mutual desire of mind and heart to do each other every good; and from all these come blessedness, happiness, joy, pleasure, and from their eternal fruition, heavenly felicity. *Conjugal Love* 180

Marriage in Heaven

Genesis 2:21-24; Conjugal Love 19-20

Words to Understand

ephod—a richly embroidered outer garment or vest worn by priests of ancient Israel

garment—an article of clothing

turban—a length of cloth wound in folds around the head

translucent—transparent, letting light pass through but diffusing it

gem—a cut and polished precious stone or pearl

Weddings

Have you been to a wedding? Weddings are beautiful and happy occasions, both in the natural world and in the spiritual world. The Lord planned from the beginning that through marriage a husband and wife could become so close that they would feel as one. In Genesis the Lord tells how the first woman was created. **Read Genesis 2:21-24.**

What did the Lord take from the man to create the first woman? He used one of the man's ribs. This story tells us that a man and a woman were meant to be together and become "one flesh." This is the closest bond with another person we can have in this life and the next. The Lord provided marriage so that people could be truly happy. The wonderful thing is that marriage is forever!

Marriage on Earth

When a man and a woman love each other deeply and share all their thoughts and feelings, they want to be married. They leave the families of their childhood and build a new family of their own. They make promises to each other and to the Lord at the wedding ceremony. The Lord provides for a betrothal service before the wedding where a couple commits to share their deepest thoughts and love. They ask the Lord to help them build a true and lasting marriage through love and friendship.

If a person does not find a marriage partner on earth, the Lord shows them their true partner when they come to heaven because all the angels are married. Marriage love is the source of the happiness of heaven.

Young People in Heaven

Children who die go immediately to heaven



and grow up in heaven. When they are old enough, the Lord plans an opportunity for them to meet the one who is to become their husband or wife. They immediately know that they are just right for each other. The young man thinks, “She is mine.” And the young woman thinks, “He is mine.” When they get to know each other the young man asks the woman to marry him and she says she will. They go to a minister for a betrothal service and promise the Lord that they will love each other forever. They ask the Lord to bless their love. A wedding follows and friends celebrate with them, like weddings we have on earth.

Let’s read about a wedding in heaven. Ten visitors were invited to this celebration. **Read *Conjugal Love 19-20* (parts below):**

At evening, a runner came to invite the visitors to a wedding. The visitors rejoiced! On waking the next day they heard young women and girls singing. When it was time, the angel said, “Get ready and put on the garments of heaven, which our prince sent.” They dressed, and suddenly their garments began to shine as if with a flaming light. They asked the angel, “Why is this?” The angel replied, “It is because you are going to a wedding. On special occasions our garments shine. They become wedding garments.”

The angel took them to the house where the wedding was to take place. A door opened, and they saw six young women come into the bridal chamber. The bridegroom and bride walked to a seat of honor, holding each other’s hands. The bridegroom wore a glistening purple robe and a shining linen tunic. He had an ephod with a gold plaque engraved with an eaglet. The eaglet is the wedding emblem of that heavenly society. On his head the bridegroom wore a turban. The bride wore a scarlet mantle over a long embroidered gown. She had a golden cummerbund about her waist. And on her head was a crown of gold studded with rubies.

When they were seated, the bridegroom placed a gold ring on the bride’s finger. Taking out bracelets and a necklace of pearls, he put the bracelets on her wrists and the necklace around her neck. Then he said, “Accept these tokens.” She accepted them, and he kissed her. “Now you are mine,” he said, and called her his wife. Then the guests cried out, “May there be a blessing!” The room filled with an aromatic smoke, which was the sign of a blessing from heaven.

The servants gave each guest some cake and a goblet. And they ate and drank. Later the husband and his wife arose, followed to the doorway by the six young women carrying silver lamps, which were now lit. The married couple entered the marriage room, and the door closed. It was late evening so the guests left and the ten visitors went to bed.



How was the wedding described in *Conjugal Love* like weddings on earth? How was it different? The bride and groom wore special clothes, and so did the guests. There were bridesmaids, as we usually have in our wedding ceremonies. The groom put a ring on the bride's finger and they became husband and wife. Afterwards everyone enjoyed food. But there was no minister at the wedding because in heaven there is always a betrothal service with a minister before the wedding. During the betrothal a man and woman promise before the Lord to marry and love each other forever. Weddings are a time for friends to join them in celebrating their union.

Two Become One

What parts of your body do you have two of? Did you think of your eyes, ears, hand, and feet? Your feet work together so you can walk smoothly. Your eyes, ears and hands work better together. Other parts of your body, such as the heart and lungs, work together too. Our lungs breathe in oxygen that goes into our blood. Then our heart pumps the oxygen throughout our bodies.

The Lord made a similar design with men and women. To work their best, they need to work together. When they are joined together in conjugal love, they work as one, like the heart and lungs, and they each feel the delight and happiness of heaven. They work smoothly together because they think of each other in all that they do. Both the husband and the wife also think of the Lord and how thankful they are to Him for all His gifts. In heaven a husband and wife sometimes appear as one angel from a distance. They know what is in each other's hearts and minds so well, that they appear as one until you get closer to them. A husband and wife are sometimes called one angel because that is how the Lord sees them.



Discussion Ideas

- Heavenly marriage comes with patience and work. Talk about ways people work out differences between them. Marriage is a place to practice loving others.
- Prepare for marriage by talking about what it is to do your best and be a good friend.

Activity 1 | Marriage in Heaven

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

Songs

Father All Holy!

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-father-all-holy/>

Lord, Look Down from Heaven on Us

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-lord-look-down-from-heaven-on-us/>

Projects

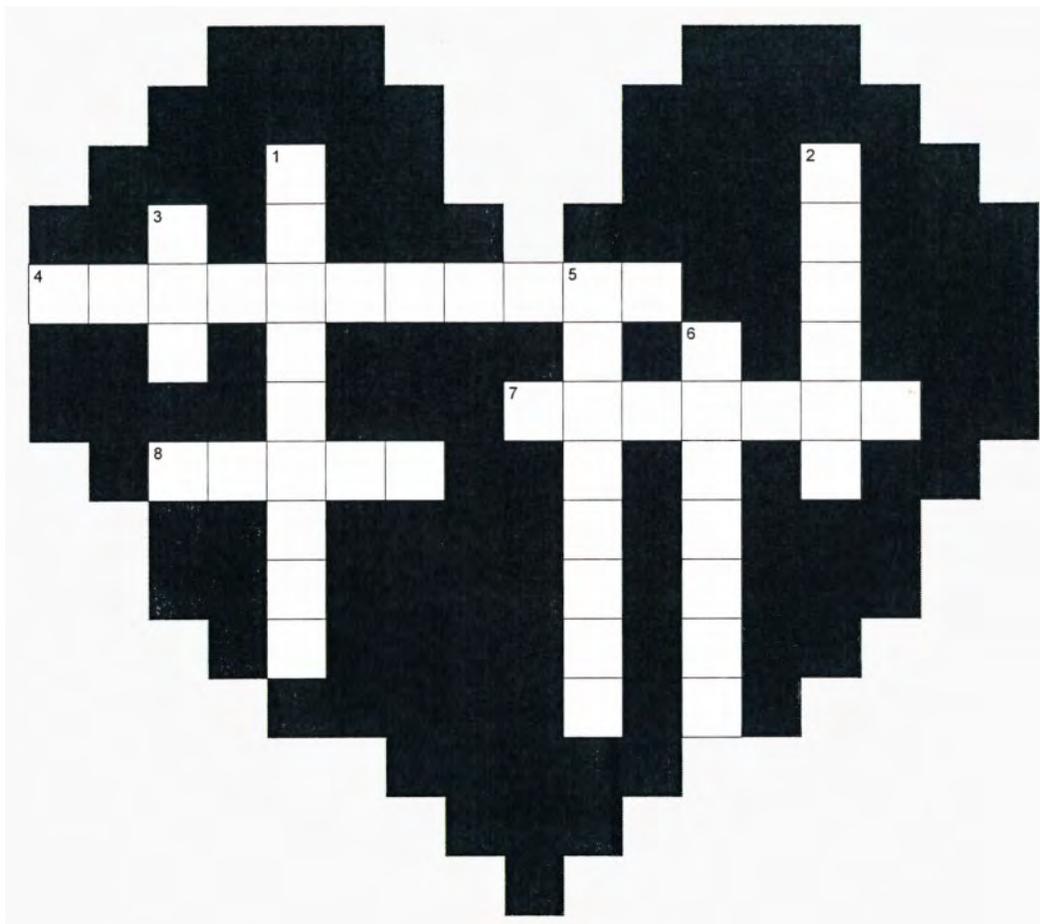
Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Crossword Puzzle
- Activity 2 | Decorate a Quotation from the Word
- Picture to Color—A Young Man and Woman Meet in Heaven (See *Conjugal Love* 229)

Additional Activity Ideas

- You have the potential to become an angel! Decorate a mirror in your home with heavenly images, such as angels, butterflies, lambs, etc. Add a sign that says, “The Lord sees me as a potential angel” on or next to the mirror. When you look in the mirror, remember that you have the potential to become an angel!
- Practice being a good friend by talking about differences of opinion instead of insisting on having your way.

Activity 1 | Marriage in Heaven Crossword Puzzle



Down

1. A special word for true marriage love is _____.
2. If a person does not find a marriage partner on earth, the Lord provides one in _____.
3. The Lord created the first woman from the first man's _____.
5. The bride and groom make _____ to each other at their wedding.
6. A man and a woman get married in a ceremony called a _____.

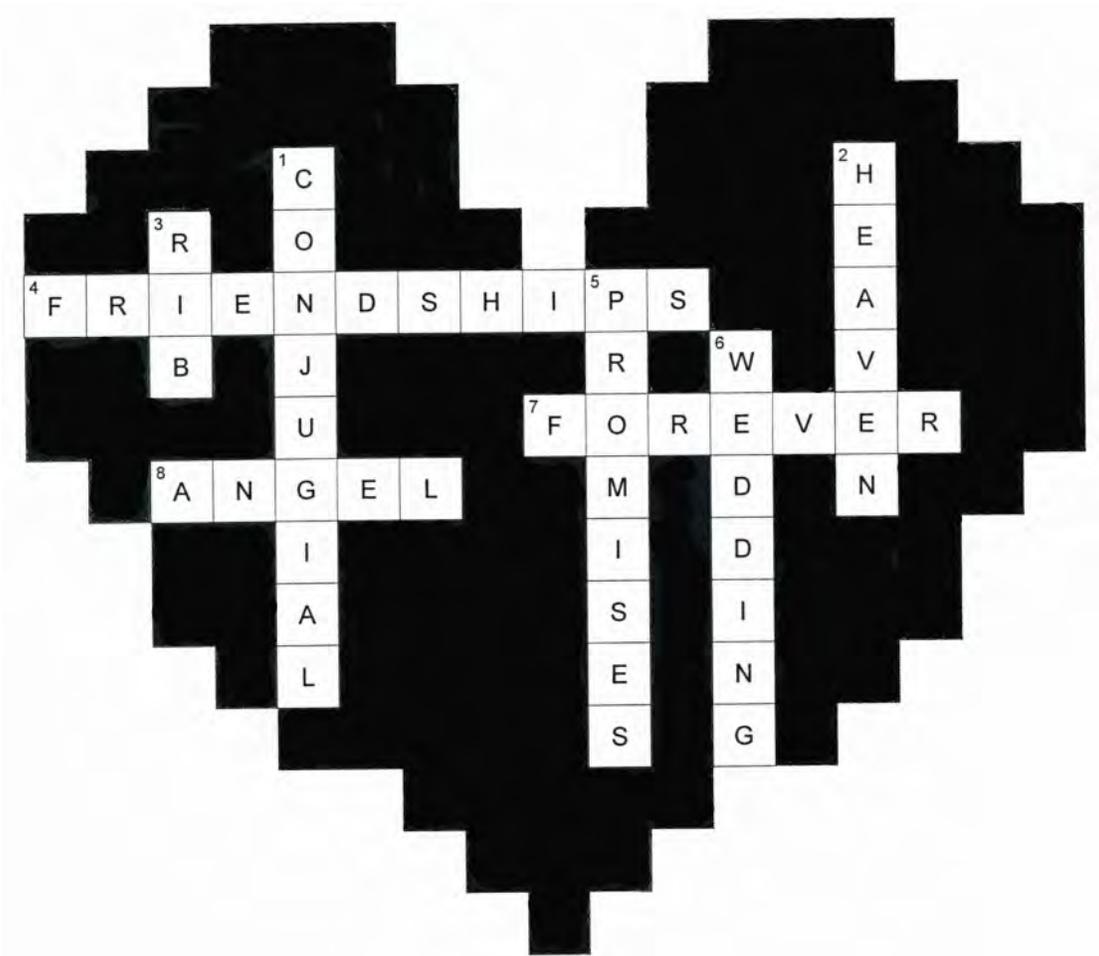
Across

4. True marriage love is also called the "friendship of _____."
7. Marriage is not just for this world, marriage lasts _____."
8. In heaven a husband and wife are sometimes seen as one _____ because they are so close.

Word Bank

angel
 conjugal
 forever
 friendships
 heaven
 promises
 rib
 wedding

Activity 1 | Marriage in Heaven Crossword Puzzle Answers



Activity 2 | Decorate a Quotation from the Word

Color the lettering in this psalm and decorate it with crayons, markers, stickers or stamps. Cut out and display.

**Wait on the Lord;
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart.
Psalm 27:14**

