

General Church Education



Emanuel Swedenborg, Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 16

Lesson 21

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

**EMANUEL SWEDENBORG,
SERVANT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
Matthew 16:12-14; True Christian Religion**

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

When people were ready to learn more about heaven, the Lord came to earth a second time. The Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg contain the Heavenly Doctrines or teachings for the New Church.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ Just as there are prophecies in the Old Testament about the Lord being born on earth, there are also prophecies in the New Testament about the Lord coming again.
- ❖ In His second coming the Lord revealed to Swedenborg the inner meaning of the Word. The New Church is founded on the teachings of the Word now opened to our understanding.
- ❖ The revelation of the internal sense of the Word not only makes the literal sense easier to understand but also has within it the possibility of expanding our minds to receive enlightenment from heaven.
- ❖ The New Church is open to all who want to know the true nature of the Lord and heaven.

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG, SERVANT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

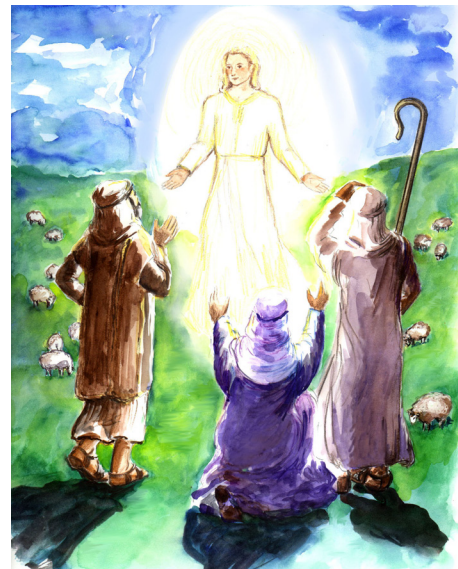
Emanuel Swedenborg's spiritual eyes were opened so that he could see wonderful sights in heaven.

The Lord called him to write down what he saw so that all the world could learn about the New Church.

LET'S REMEMBER:

Do you remember from our stories in the Word how the Lord is always trying to show people the right way to live so that they will be happy? Even when people make bad choices, He still encourages them to change, to turn back to Him and obey His Commandments.

At Christmas we learned there came a time when most people had become so evil and selfish that it was difficult for even those who wanted to live a good life to do so. It was such a dark time on earth. The Lord Himself needed to come into the world to remind people about the teachings of His Word and to show us the path to heaven.



- ♦ **Where was Baby Jesus born?** (Bethlehem.)
- ♦ **Who were the first people to be told about His birth?** (Shepherds.)
- ♦ **Who followed a star to come to worship Him?** (Wise men.)

When Jesus grew up, many people followed Him and learned the truth from Him. They tried to live good lives and told others as well.

OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

Many years after the Lord's life on earth, there came a time when people were once again confused and did not know the true teachings of the Lord. So He had to come to earth again. This time, He did not come as a little baby. He opened the spiritual eyes of a good man so that he could see the wonderful sights in heaven and tell others about it. This man was Emanuel Swedenborg.



Earlier, the Lord opened Mary's spiritual eyes so that she could see the angel who told her about the special Baby she would have. Do you remember others whose spiritual eyes were opened? (Zacharias, Joseph, shepherds, wise men.)

Now the Lord appeared to Emanuel Swedenborg. He lived several hundred years ago in a country called Sweden. The Lord showed him amazing things and told Swedenborg to write them down in books so that everyone could learn the truth about heaven and no longer be confused. He wrote

the truth about marriage, about life after death, how the Lord takes care of us, and many more things.

Life was different in the days of Swedenborg. Men wore wigs on their heads, knee pants and long socks. They wrote with quill pens and ink. Swedenborg faithfully wrote whatever the Lord told him for many years. He published about thirty books with heavenly teachings in them. We call these books the Heavenly Doctrines or the Writings.

Swedenborg was a kind man and loved children, although he was not married and had no children of his own. The children in his neighborhood liked him. His neighbors knew that he could see heavenly things and one day a neighbor girl asked Swedenborg to show her an angel. Do you know what he did? He had her stand in front of a curtain in his garden house. He said, "Now you will see an angel." He pulled the curtain back so that the girl saw herself in a mirror! He was telling her that all of us can be angels if we love the Lord.

The Lord knew that He would come again. While He was on earth, He told people so. Let's read one of those times.



Read **Matthew 16:12-14**.

This Spirit of Truth has come in the Heavenly Doctrines which the Lord told His servant Emanuel Swedenborg to write. The Writings of Swedenborg show us how to become angels in heaven. They are part of the Lord's Word, His revelation.



Swedenborg tells us who he is as well. On the title page of one of the books of the Writings, the True Christian Religion, Swedenborg's name is listed and underneath his name it says "Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ."

That tells everyone that Swedenborg wrote down just what the Lord wants us to know. He faithfully wrote the things the Lord told him to. He wrote about a New Church in heaven and on earth. In this church all people are able to understand what is true and are no longer confused. We will learn more about the Church of the New Jerusalem later. It is the name of our Church, and we are very happy that the Lord has come again.

Do you think the Lord wants us to learn about heaven? (Yes.) Yes, and we now have the written Word to be our guide. When you get older, you can read the Writings for yourself.

Now, why don't you take a look in the mirror? The Lord created you to become an angel in heaven. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Can you name some people whose spiritual eyes have been opened?** (Mary, Joseph, Zacharias, the shepherds and wisemen, Swedenborg.)
- ♦ **What did these people see?** (Angels, the Lord, heaven.)
- ♦ **How did the Lord come to earth the first time?** (As Baby Jesus.)
- ♦ **How did He come the second time?** (In the Heavenly Doctrines or the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.)
- ♦ **Why do you think the Lord came to earth both times?** (To tell people about heaven because He wants everyone to live with Him there forever.)
- ♦ **Do you think Swedenborg loved the Lord? How do you know?** (Answers will vary but may include that he wrote what the Lord told him, that he obeyed the Lord, that he was a servant of the Lord.)

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG, SERVANT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.



Project choices:

An Angel Revealed project
Color a picture of Swedenborg

John 10:27



Songs:

Moses Went to Sinai's Peak—Listen or download at [https://](https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-moses-went-to-sinai-peak/)

www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-moses-went-to-sinai-peak/

Through Bygone Ages—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-through-bygone-ages/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Make a quill pen and write with ink like Emanuel Swedenborg. Cut the end a large feather diagonally to form a point. Dip the end of the quill in the ink and try writing.
- ❖ Swedenborg lived in the 1700's. What was your country like at that time? Visit the library to explore picture books that show those times.
- ❖ Dip candles or do another craft that takes you back in time.
- ❖ Do you have any books by Emanuel Swedenborg? Show them to children and read some of their titles.

An Angel Revealed

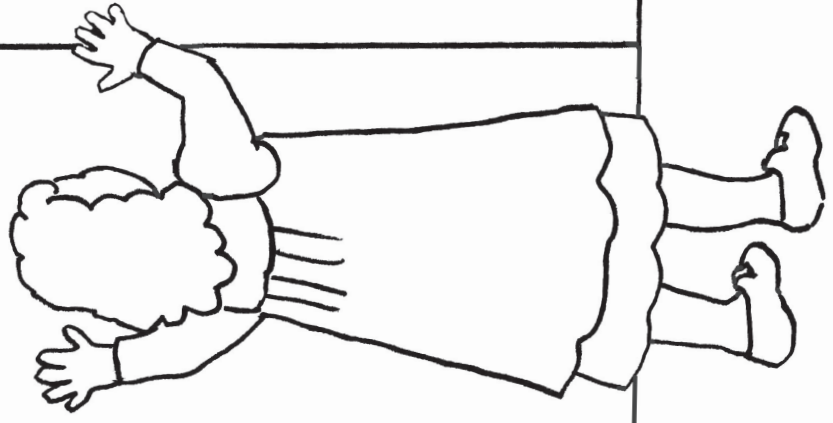
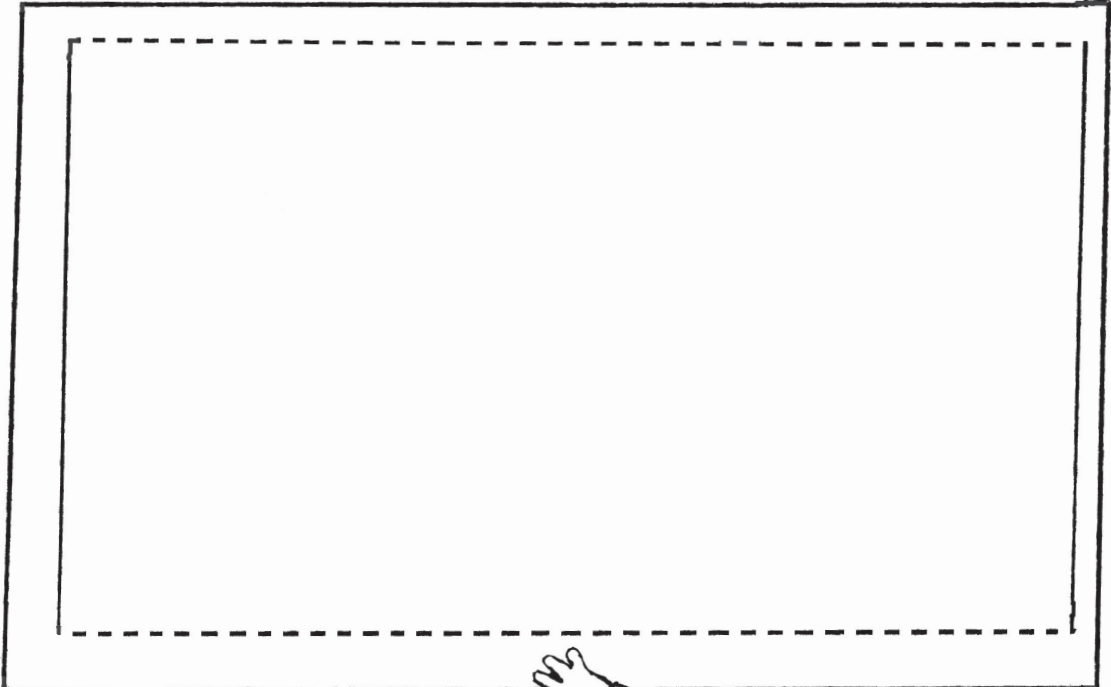
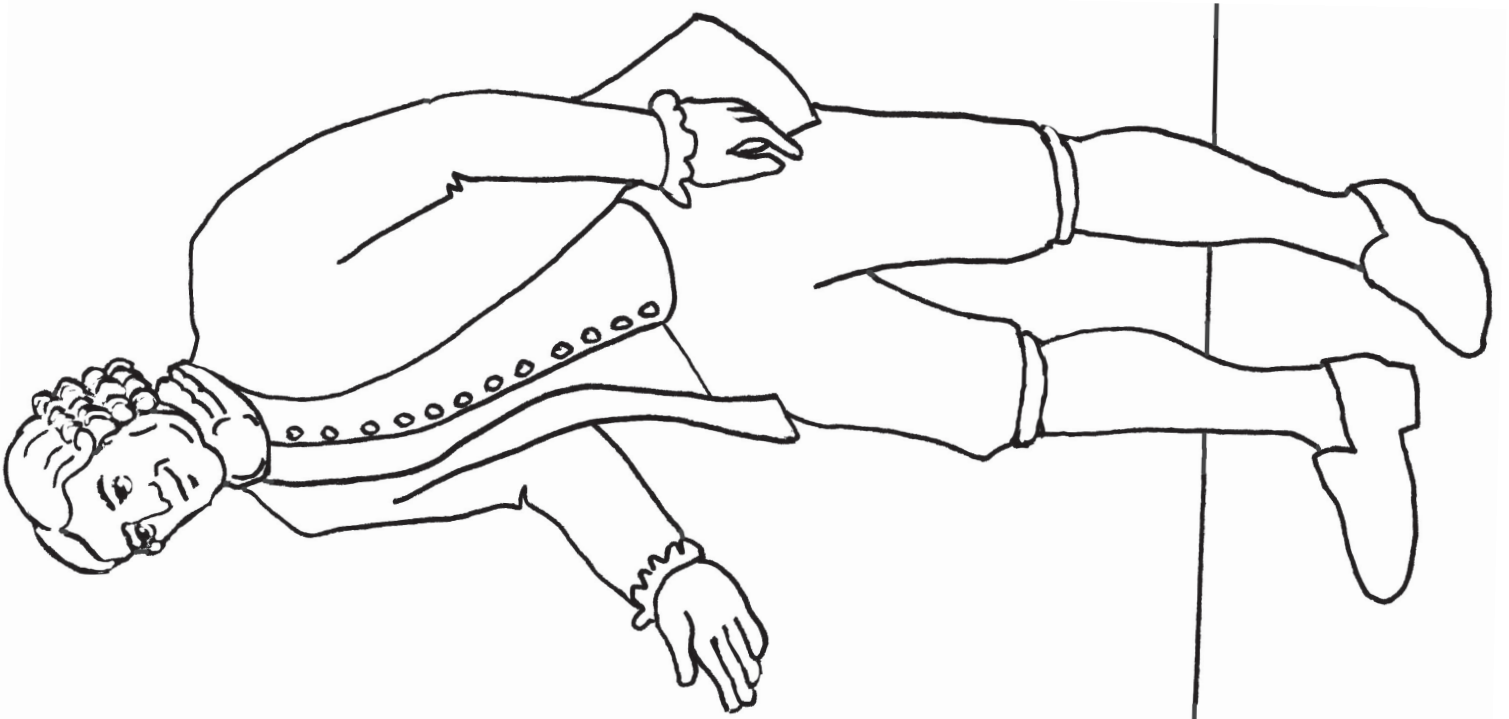
A project about the little girl and the angel in the mirror.

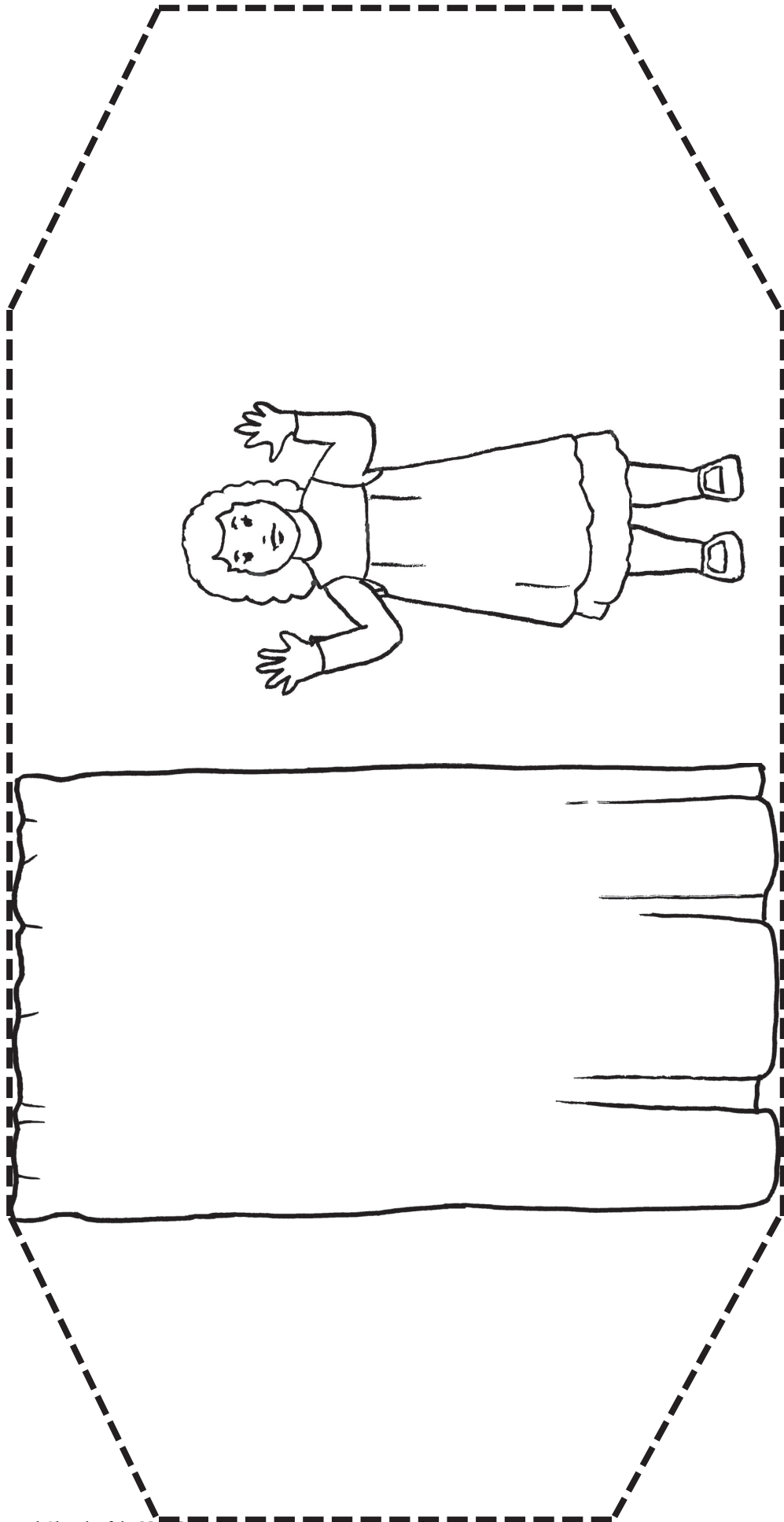
Supplies:

2 printed pages
crayons or markers
scissors

Project instructions:

1. With crayons or colored pencils, color the picture of Swedenborg and the little girl. Remember to leave Swedenborg's powdered wig and shirt white. His vest, coat, pants and shoes would have been a dark color.
2. Color the curtain and the little girl's reflection on the second printed page.
3. Cut out the strip with the curtain and girl's reflection on it along the dotted lines.
4. Cut two slits in the picture of Swedenborg along the dotted lines. Be sure to cut all the way to the inner corner of the mirror's frame.
4. Slide the strip through the slits in the picture with Swedenborg. Move the strip until what shows is the curtain. Now you can retell the story about Swedenborg and the little girl by "pulling the curtain" back to reveal the child's reflection.







Recitation Award: Emanuel Swedenborg Servant of the Lord

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

