

General Church Education



Life in Heaven

John 11:25-26; *Heaven and Hell* 118

Lesson 22

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

LIFE IN HEAVEN

John 11:25-26; Heaven and Hell 118

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

All good people go to heaven. The angels see the Lord in the sun of heaven and feel close to Him always.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ Heaven is created from the human race. All angels were once people on earth.
- ❖ The Lord sometimes appears as a Man in heaven but is mostly seen as the Sun there.
- ❖ The Sun of heaven appears high in the sky there (at 45 degrees above the horizon) but the Lord is really as close as He can be to the angels.
- ❖ The Lord is in the warmth and light radiating from that Sun (that is, goodness and truth) which make the very atmosphere in which the angels live. In Him they "live and move and have their being" (Acts 17:28). "Nothing in the created universe has life except the human God alone, or the Lord. Nothing moves except as the result of life from Him, and nothing has existence except through the sun from Him. Consequently it is a truth that in God we live, move, and have our being" (Divine Love and Wisdom 301).
- ❖ Even while we are living on earth, we are affected by the Sun of heaven. As to our spirit, we are in the spiritual world even now. Our minds are enlightened and our hearts are warmed by that spiritual Sun.

LIFE IN HEAVEN

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

There is a natural and a spiritual world.
All good people go to heaven.
Life goes on forever.
The Lord is seen as the Sun of heaven.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **We have learned about a special man named Emanuel Swedenborg. Whose servant was he?** (The Lord Jesus Christ.)
- ♦ **What did the Lord show him?** (The spiritual world or heaven.)
- ♦ **How did Swedenborg see heaven?** (His spiritual eyes were opened.)
- ♦ **What did Swedenborg write down for the Lord?** (The heavenly things that the Lord showed him.)
- ♦ **Why is this important to us?** (We can learn many things about the spiritual world and we can understand the Word better.)



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

The Lord wants people to know that life goes on forever and that all good people go to heaven.

When He was in the world, He tried to tell people about resurrection. That word means raising a person who has died to a new life in heaven. Let's hear what He said about resurrection.



Read **John 11:25-26**.

What do you think this means? (People live forever.) Yes, people on earth get old. Their natural bodies are no longer young and strong. They are not able to be as useful in this natural world. So they need to leave behind their natural bodies and enter into their spiritual bodies so they can go on living forever.



Do you know what a spiritual body is? It is the body we use in heaven which is in the spiritual world. Did you know you have a spiritual body now? It has the same parts as the natural body you can see. Only your spiritual body never wears out. It never gets old and is always strong and healthy. Does it sound much better than the natural bodies we have in this world? It is!

When people get old, they move from one body to the other. It only seems as if they die. The old body is buried here because it is of no use anymore. The spiritual body is much more wonderful.

Let's try an experiment to see how this might be. Go get some gloves and put them on. Notice how it feels when you move your fingers around. Try to pick up something small like a pencil or a coin. Is it easy or hard to do with the gloves on? Now, slip your hands out of the gloves and wiggle your fingers around. What does it feel like now? Can you move about faster and easier? Try to pick up something small now and notice how easily your fingers grasp it. Gloves have a use. They keep our hands warm. But it is much easier and more fun to use our hands without them.

That is something like living in your spiritual body after the natural body that covers it is left behind. You still have eyes, hands and feet, but everything works so much better and with more freedom.

Do you think you will see the Lord when you are in your spiritual body? Let's read about it in a book of the Writings of the New Church given by the Lord through Emanuel Swedenborg.



Read from **Heaven and Hell 118:**

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. What then I have heard and seen of the Lord as the Sun I will here describe in a few words. 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.

Do angels see the Lord? (Yes.)
How do they see Him? (As the Sun.)
The angels always see the Lord because, unlike the sun in this world, the Sun never goes down there. It is always right in front of them.

Do you know why the Lord is seen as a Sun? His love is so strong it seems like fire. His truth is so bright it seems like sunlight. So the Lord seems to have the Sun around Him.



Angels feel close to the Lord when He talks to their hearts. His love makes them feel warm. Light shining in their minds shows them how to behave. In this way the Lord teaches them. Sometimes, we have these good feelings on earth. Then we know that the Lord is talking to our hearts and making us feel warm and happy. You might especially notice these feelings when you have done something helpful for someone or tried very hard to obey the Lord's commandments. And that is how we become angels in heaven: by loving the Lord and keeping His commandments.

Unlike on earth, the angels in heaven always see the Sun there. No matter which way they turn, He is always there. This is because angels always feel the Lord near them in everything they do.

The Sun does not go down because there is no night in heaven. It does get dimmer, though, so the angels can sleep. Wouldn't it be comforting to be able to see the Lord any time we wanted to?

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Do people really die?** (No, they live forever.)
- ♦ **How is your spiritual body like your natural one?** (Has the same parts: eyes, ears, and so forth.)
- ♦ **How is your spiritual body different?** (Always young and healthy—better and more wonderful.)
- ♦ **Where do angels see the Lord in heaven?** (In the Sun.)
- ♦ **When do they see Him?** (Always.)
- ♦ **Do you think the angels are happy? Why?**

LIFE IN HEAVEN

ACTIVITIES



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

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 destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



Project choices:

Matthew 6:19-21

The Lord's Face in the Sun project
Color a picture of heaven



Songs:

Every Girl in Heaven Has a Garden Bright—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-every-girl-in-heaven-has-a-garden-bright/>
Father in Heaven, Who Gave Us the Word—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-father-in-heaven-who-gave-us-the-word/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Look at family photo albums and remember those who have made the transition to the spiritual world. Discuss how we can feel close to them even though we miss them.
- ❖ Draw pictures of the angels with happy faces to reflect their state in heaven. Perhaps draw guardian angels that surround you.
- ❖ Watch *What Heaven Is Like* at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-what-heaven-is-like/>
- ❖ *I Miss Grandpa* by Adam Glenn is a sensitive story written to help preschool through primary level children discuss a family death. Read online or print at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/story-i-miss-grandpa.pdf>

The Lord's Face in the Sun

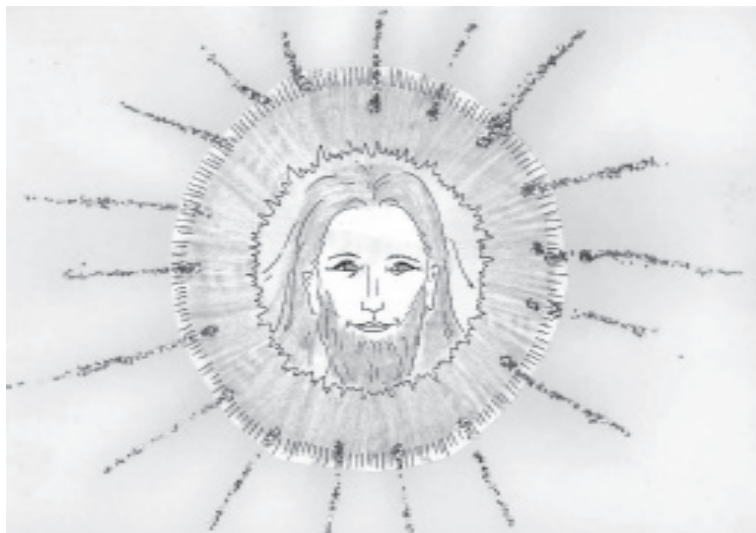
This project helps children visualize the Lord as the angels see Him in heaven.

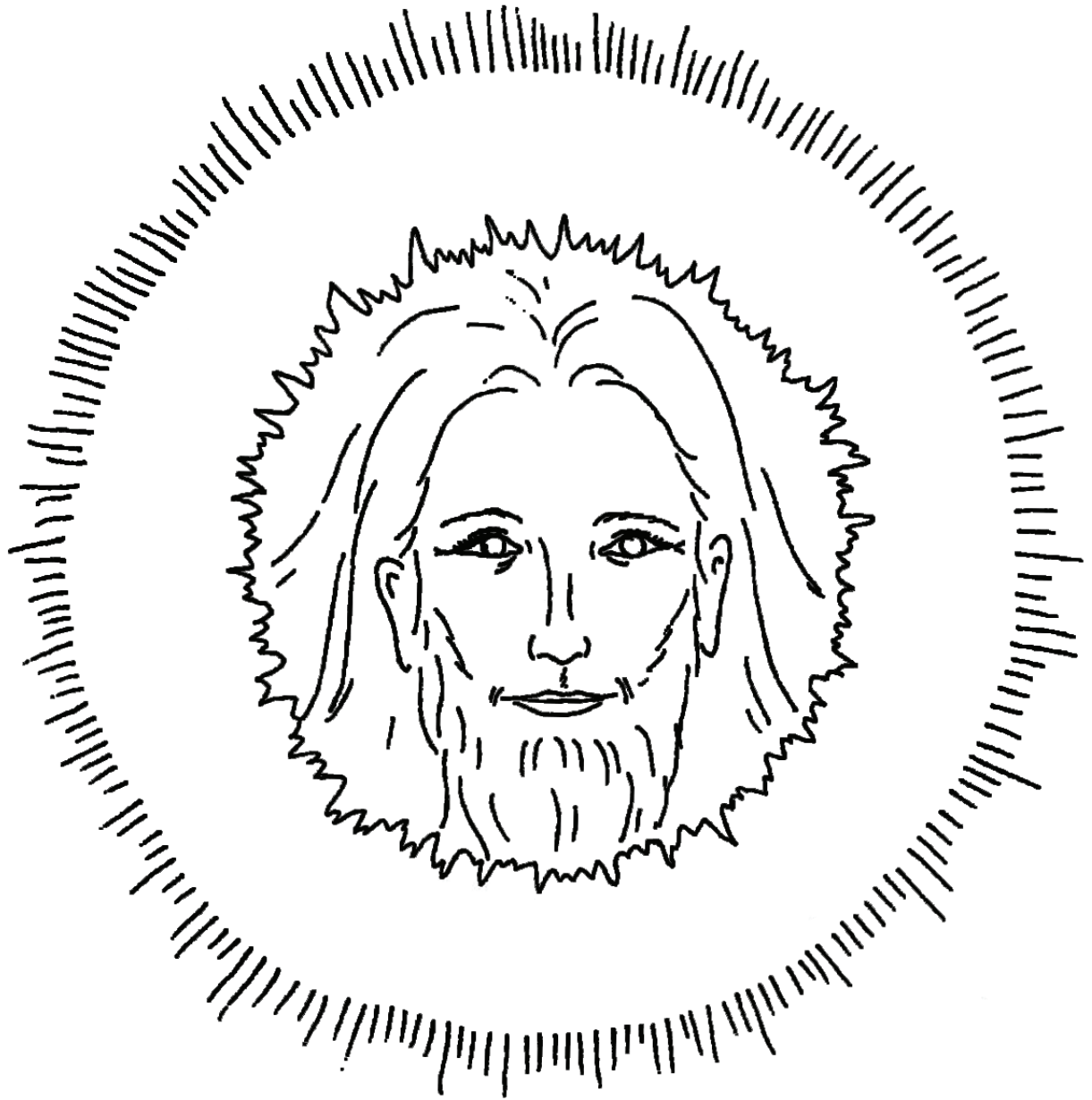
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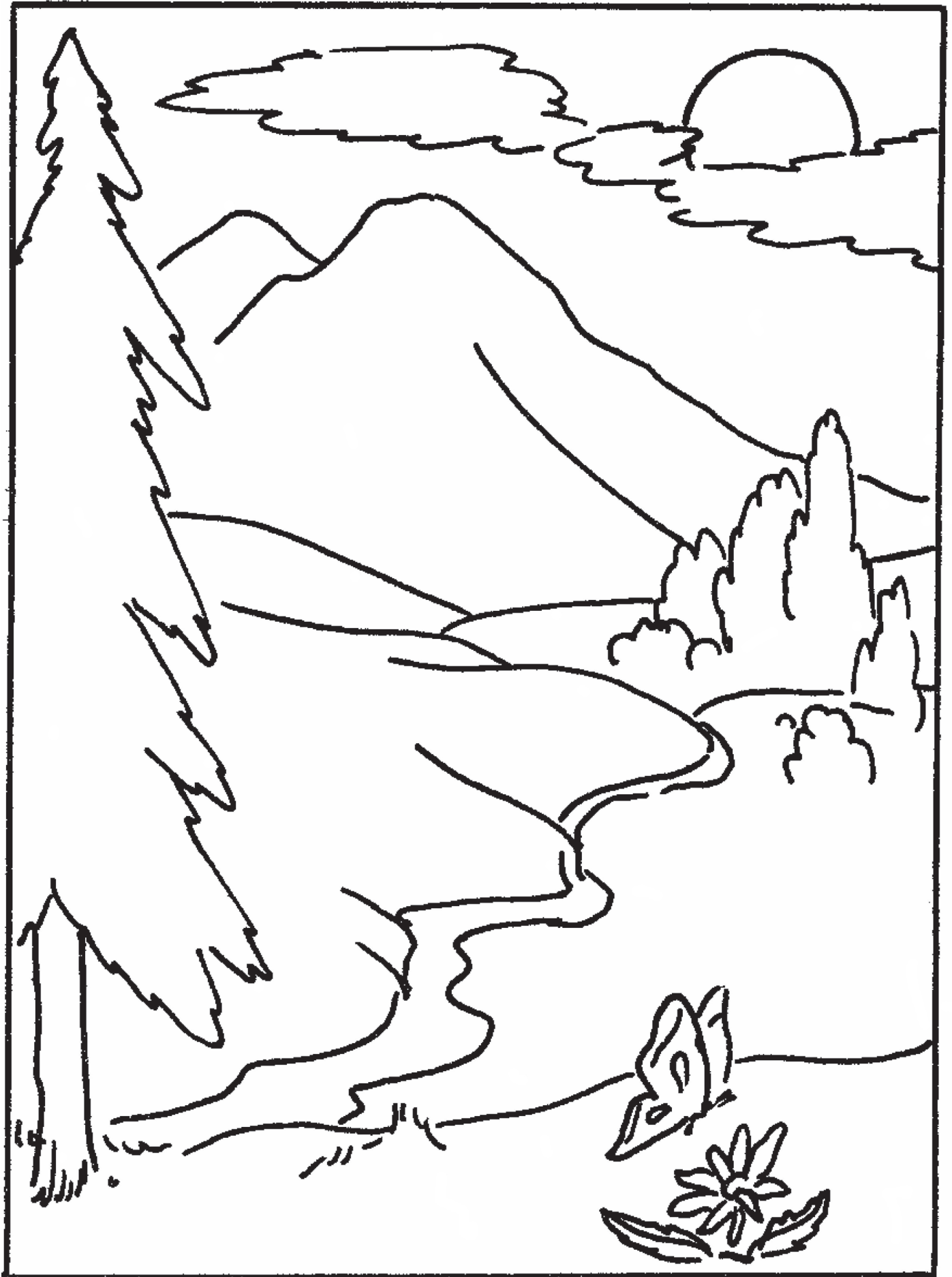
1 printed page
1 piece of yellow paper
crayons or markers
glitter
glue
scissors

Project instructions:

1. Using crayons or markers, color the Lord's face in the Sun of heaven on the printed page. Remember to use yellow, orange or gold for the Sun.
2. Cut out the picture of the Lord in the Sun and glue it to the yellow construction paper.
3. Use glue to make lines radiating from the Lord out to the edges of the page. Sprinkle gold glitter on the glue.
4. Allow it to dry and you have a lovely picture to hang somewhere special. It can help you remember that the Lord is always near and that the angels in heaven are able to see Him at all times.







Recitation Award: Life in Heaven

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.

