

General Church Education



Homes in Heaven

John 14:1-4; *Heaven and Hell* 184-185

Lesson 23

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

HOMES IN HEAVEN

John 14:1-4; Heaven and Hell 184-185

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

The Lord provides beautiful homes and gardens for the angels in heaven. Each heavenly home is perfectly suited for the angels who live there.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ The kind of love that rules in our hearts and our minds determines our place in the spiritual world. If love to the Lord and the neighbor rule in us, we will find a place in heaven. If love to self and the world rule, we will prefer a place in hell, because it will be suited to us.
- ❖ When people first enter the spiritual world, they visit various communities until they see one that matches their ruling love.
- ❖ When people find their community in heaven, they feel welcome, comfortable and happy with the people they meet there, and that is where they stay.
- ❖ The angels' houses correspond to or picture their minds and characters. Large or small, plain or elaborate, made of stone or wood—everything about the house represents the spiritual state of the people who live in it.
- ❖ The grounds around the house also depict the character of their minds. If you see a pleasant house on the hill with an orchard or garden around it with beautiful birds and gentle animals, you would know that gentle, loving people live there.
- ❖ It is wonderful to realize that during our lives in this world, as our minds develop spiritually, we are building an eternal home.

HOMES IN HEAVEN

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

The homes in heaven are all beautiful.
Some heavenly homes look a lot like ours.
Some homes are made of stone like castles, some are very simple and made of wood, some are tents.
All angels in heaven have a home just suited for them.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **Do people really die?** (No, life goes on forever.)
- ♦ **Where do the angels see the Lord in heaven?** (In the Sun.)
- ♦ **Do you remember some of the ways your spiritual body is different from your natural one?** (Always young and healthy, works better and with more freedom.)
- ♦ **Do all good people go to heaven and live there happily, close to the Lord?** (Yes.)



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

Have you ever wondered where the angels live in heaven? They would need a home, wouldn't they? There are different kinds of homes in heaven. On earth our homes are different as well. Some people like to live in cities and may have an apartment in a large building. Others like to live in the country, perhaps on a farm raising animals or crops. Still others like to live in small towns. And people like to have different things in their homes. Some people like plain furniture and others prefer something with more decorations. Some people like to have a large garden with fruits and vegetables in it. Some people like to grow all kinds of roses. Some people especially love to have a pond or a fountain in their garden.

What do you like? Do you have a favorite color? What kind of things do you like to have in your room at home?

In heaven the Lord provides a home for everyone and it suits them just perfectly. Your home will seem just right for you. Your garden will be just as you like it as well. In heaven there are flowers so beautiful that they seem to sparkle and shine like jewels. There are birds, lambs, deer and many other kinds

of animals. People walk in their gardens in the morning and evening and it makes their hearts glad. Let's read about some of the homes.



Read **Heaven and Hell 184-185**:

Whenever I spoke with the angels, I have been with them in their dwellings. Their dwellings are just like the dwellings on earth called houses, but more beautiful. In them are rooms, inner rooms and bedrooms, in great number.

There are also courts and around them gardens, flowerbeds and lawns. Where they live in societies, their houses are near each other, one alongside another, arranged in the form of a city, with streets, roads, and public squares, exactly like cities on our earth. I have been allowed to walk through them, and look about on every side, and occasionally to enter the houses.

I have seen palaces of heaven which were so magnificent that they cannot be described. Their upper stories glittered as if made of pure gold, and their lower stories, as if made of precious stones.... On the side looking to the south there were parks where, too, everything shone, in some places the leaves glistening as if made of silver, and the fruit as if made of gold, while the flowers in their beds formed as it were rainbows with their colors.

Did the first kind of house sound a lot like ones you have seen? It says they are like houses on earth, only more beautiful. Angels who try to obey the Lord have pretty houses and clothes of many colors. It is a happy place to live.



What did the second kind of house sound like? (Palaces.) Can you imagine a palace glittering with gold and precious stones? Angels who love others and spend their time trying to help other people live in such houses.

There is a third kind of house in heaven. It is for angels who love the Lord more than anything

and do whatever He says. They know all the wonderful things the Lord does for everyone and they are always thanking Him in their hearts. These angels live in simple, beautiful and warm homes made of wood or in tents. They live on farms with gentle lambs and other animals around them. The angel husband and wife are so happy together that their faces shine with their love.



We know that there are many beautiful homes or dwellings in heaven. The Lord has told us so. This is what He said while He was on earth.



Read **John 14:1-4**.

A mansion can be a large, beautiful home or a very simple dwelling. The Lord is telling us in these verses just why He came to earth: to tell us where He lives, that is, heaven, and to show us the way so that we can follow Him and live in a heavenly home with Him forever.

We are building our heavenly home right now while we live here on earth. Each time we do something good and helpful or choose to obey the Lord's commandments, we are building our home in heaven. That is why we will recognize it when we see it, and it will just suit us!

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Who is going to prepare a house for us in heaven?** (The Lord.)
- ♦ **Will all the angels have a house that is just right for them?** (Yes.)
- ♦ **Do you remember the three kinds of houses in heaven?** (Ones similar to those on earth, palaces, and simple houses either made of wood or tents.)
- ♦ **Do you think heaven will look different from this world?** (Similar but more beautiful.)
- ♦ **Do you think all of the angels will have what they need from the Lord?** (Yes, He takes good care of everyone.)

HOMES 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

Homes in Heaven 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:

- ❖ Children love to build. Use blocks, empty food boxes or other materials to build different kinds of homes. If you have play cloths (large pieces of fabric or blankets), it is fun to drape them on furniture to make a child-sized tents to play in.
- ❖ Take a walk. Look at the homes you see. Talk about why we need homes: a private place for families to be together to live, eat, grow and pray. Talk about the fun things you can do in homes.

Homes in Heaven Mobile

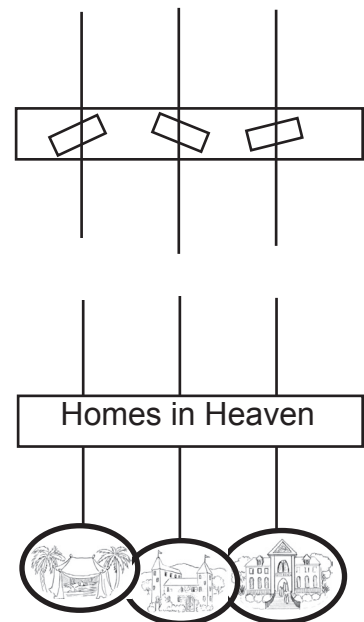
Illustrate angel homes in heaven.

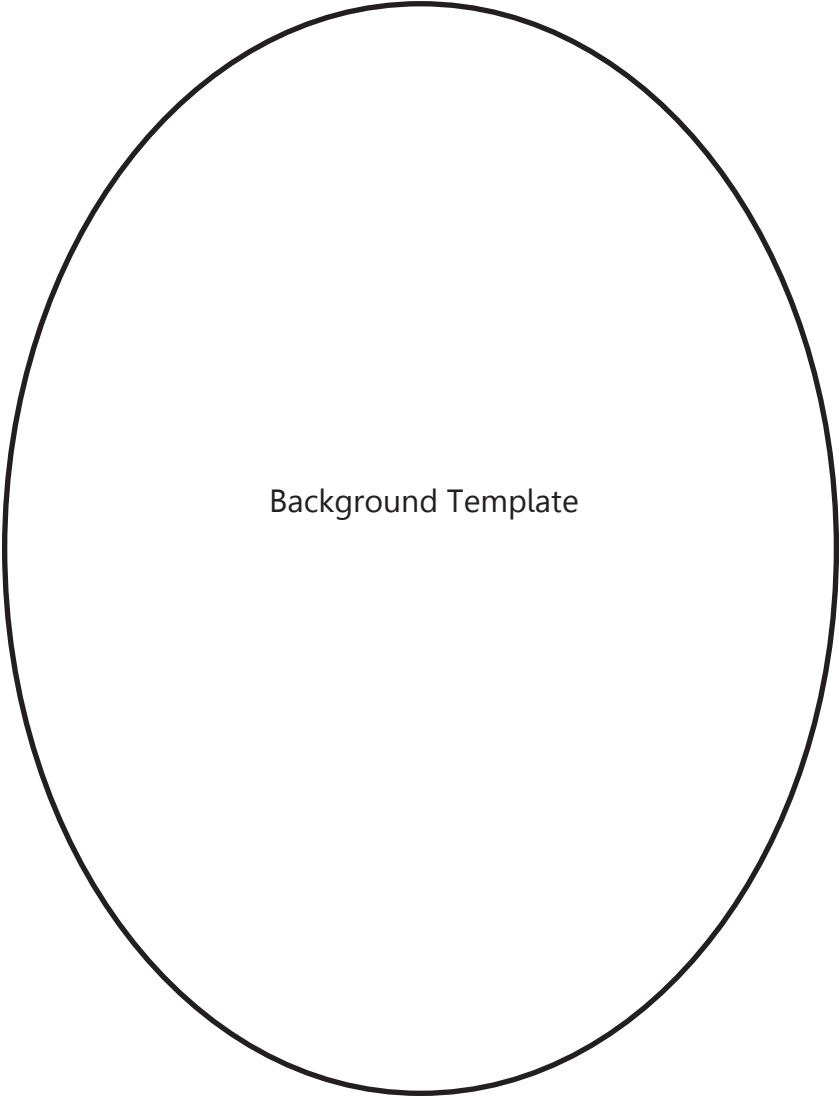
Supplies:

- 2 printed pages
- 1 piece of green construction paper
- crayons or markers
- scissors
- glue
- tape
- 3 pieces of yarn, ribbon or string, each about 8 inches long

Project instructions:

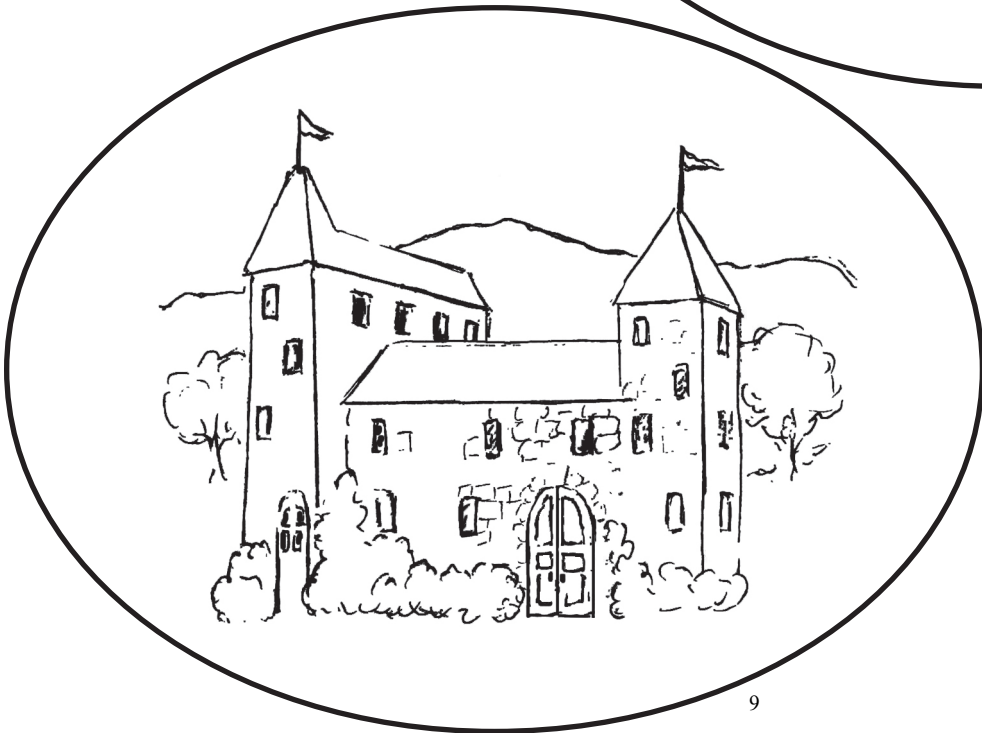
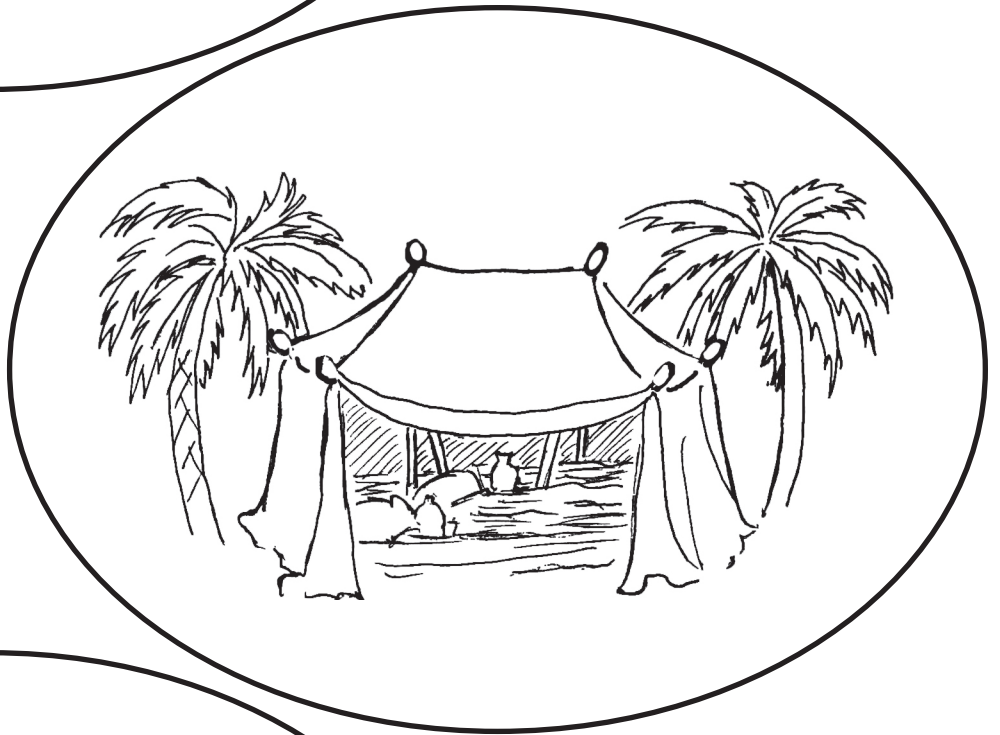
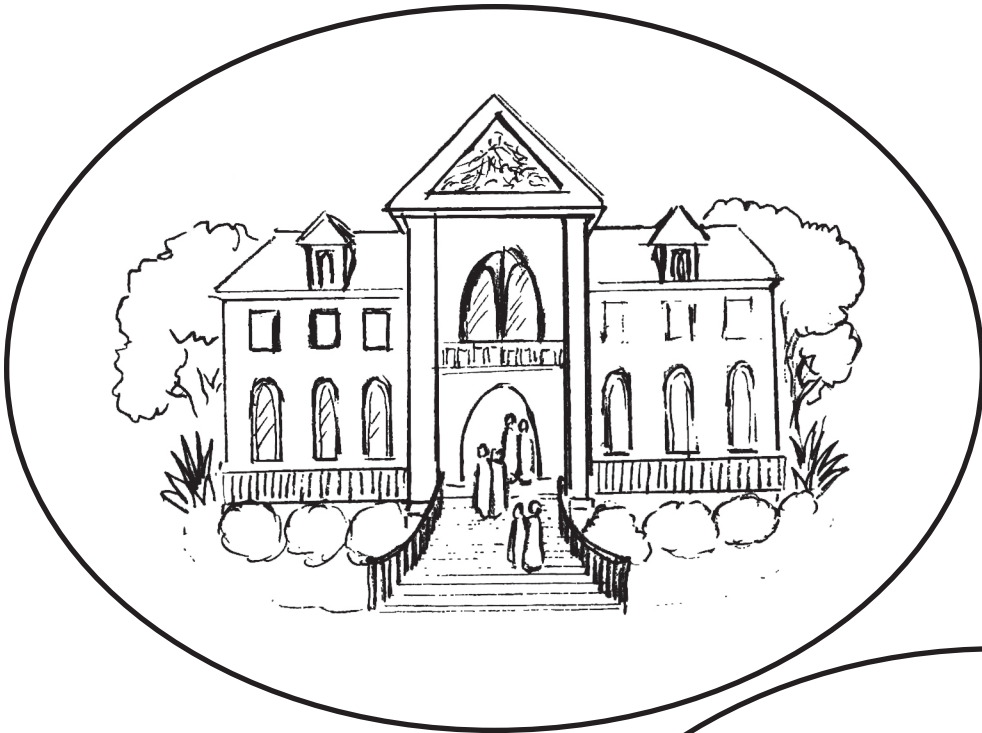
1. Color the pictures of the three kinds of homes in heaven.
2. Cut out the ovals with the pictures in them.
3. Cut out the template oval. Trace three copies of the template oval on the green construction paper and cut them out.
4. Glue one of the pictures into the center of the three construction paper ovals.
4. Cut out the long rectangle with words on it. Lay it on the table in front of you face down.
5. Lay the three pieces of yarn, ribbon or string over the back of the rectangle with about three inches on each side. Space them evenly, but leaving at least an inch blank at each end. (See illustration.) Tape the pieces of string to the back of the rectangle.
6. Turn the rectangle over and smooth out the yarn, ribbon or string pieces. Tape the bottom end of each piece of string to the back of one of the heavenly homes pictures. (See illustration.)
7. Curve the ends of the rectangle together to create a circle and tape the ends together.
8. Take the three loose ends of the yarn, ribbon or string and tie them together. Now you have a lovely mobile to hang to help you remember what some of the homes in heaven are like!

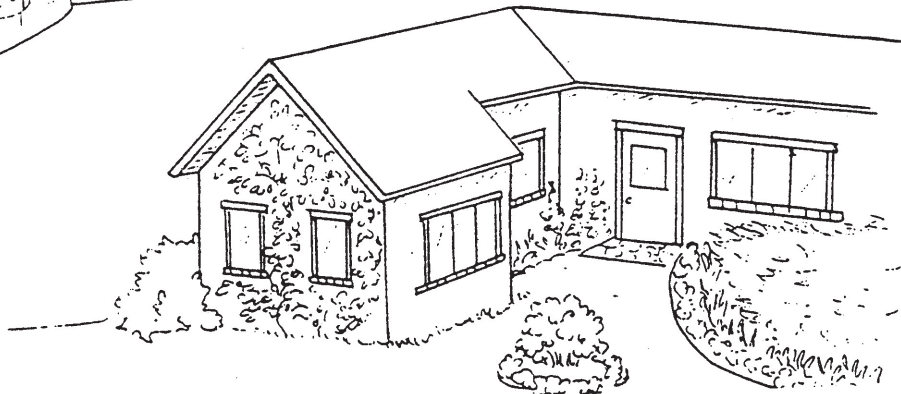
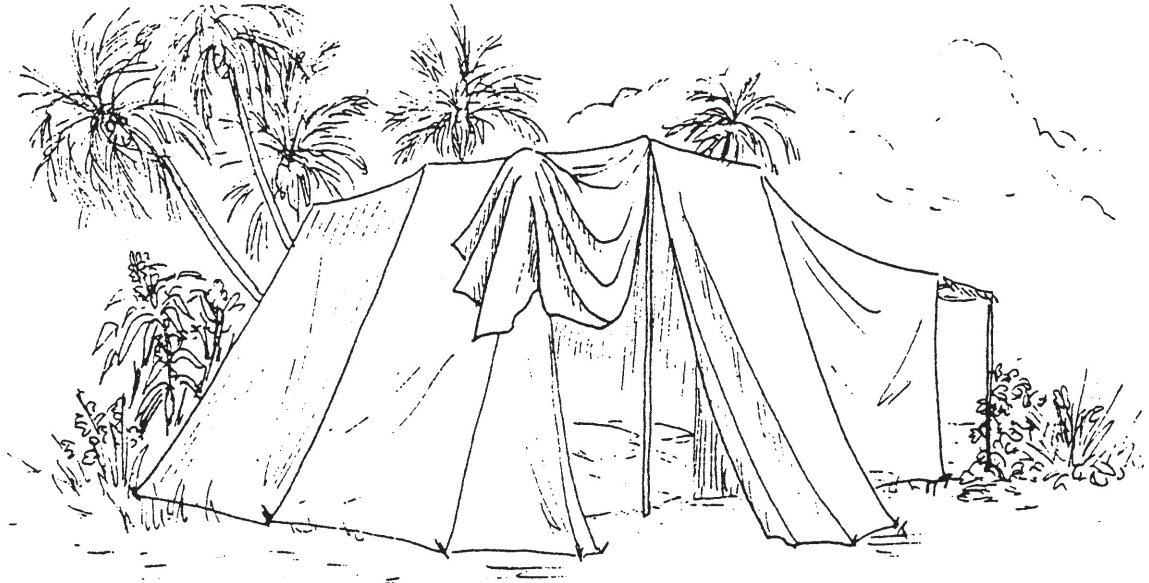




Background Template

Homes in Heaven





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.

