

General Church Education



The Word in Heaven

True Christian Religion 162.6

Lesson 25

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

THE WORD IN HEAVEN

True Christian Religion 162.6

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

The Word is a very precious gift from the Lord, in heaven and on earth. The angels see the Word according to the love in their hearts.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ The Lord is the Word because He is Divine Truth itself. The whole Word in the spiritual sense is about the Lord.
- ❖ The Divine Truth that goes forth from the Lord is accommodated to people in all states of spiritual life and understanding, from simple people and children to the wisest angels.
- ❖ The spiritual sense is like the soul of the Word and is what makes it living and holy. "The words that I speak unto you are spirit and they are life," the Lord told His disciples.
- ❖ The Word is "written in our hearts" when we love the truth, live by it and mold our character around it.
- ❖ There are three heavens, a highest, a middle, and a lowest. Each of these heavens has characteristics that are distinct from one another. "Those who by regeneration acquire love to the Lord enter the highest heaven, those who acquire love to the neighbor, enter the middle heaven, and those who merely practice external charity, but at the same time acknowledge the Lord as God the Redeemer and Savior, enter the lowest heaven. All these are saved but in different ways" (True Christian Religion 580).

THE WORD IN HEAVEN

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

The angels in heaven love the Lord and read His Word there. The Word appears in different ways to angels according to the ways in which they love the Lord.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **Who takes care of babies in heaven?** (Angel mothers.)
- ♦ **How many languages are there in heaven?** (One heavenly language.)
- ♦ **What happens to children's clothes when they are naughty?** (Spots appear.)
- ♦ **What happens in their gardens when they are naughty?** (Flowers fade.)
- ♦ **Why do you think these things happen?** (So the children will remember what they did, feel sorry about it, and make things right again.)



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

Last time we heard that children in heaven learn by watching plays and reading the Word. Let's find out more about the Word in heaven.

Do children in heaven read the Word often? (Yes, they have their own copy of it and read it everyday.)



Sometimes ministers come to talk to the children as well. The Word is very special to the angels and they all read it. After all, it is the best way to learn about the Lord and how He wants us to live. The Lord has given the Word because He wants everyone to be happy in heaven and on earth. When angels read the Word, they have good feelings and feel close to the Lord.

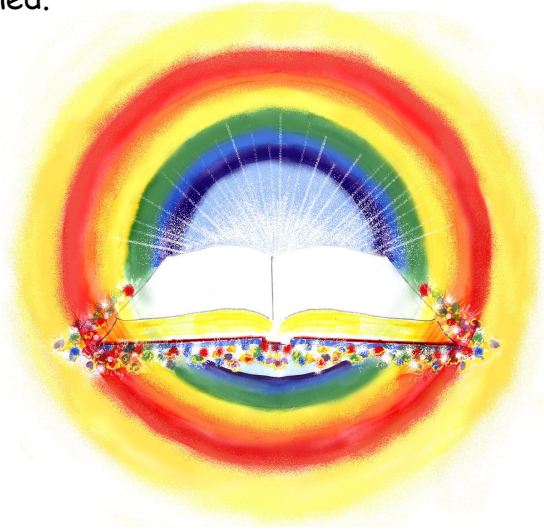
Once when Swedenborg's spiritual eyes were opened, he saw what the Word in heaven looked like. It looked slightly

different depending on the kind of angels who were present. He saw the Word in a room with walls that shone like gold. The Word lay on a table. All around the edges of the table were brilliant precious stones. Perhaps they looked similar to the diamonds and rubies on earth, only even more lovely. Let's read and find out what happens when the Word was opened.



Read **True Christian Religion 162.6:**

And they went, and entered a chamber, the walls of which shone like gold, and there also they saw a table on which the Word lay, encircled with precious stones arranged in a heavenly form. And the angel guard said, "When the Word is opened a light of ineffable brightness shines forth from it; and at the same time there is from the precious stones the appearance of a rainbow above and round about the Word."



What shone forth from the Word? (A very beautiful light.) Yes, ineffable means it was so bright and beautiful that it is difficult to find words to describe it.

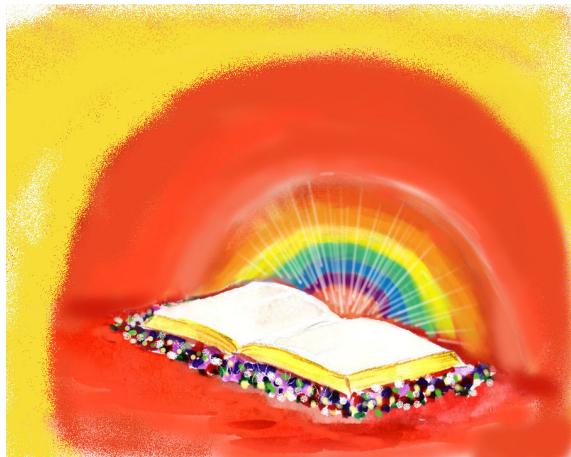
What appeared from the precious stones? (A rainbow.) Yes, this rainbow went above and around the Word. Let's find out what changes when different angels come close to the Word.

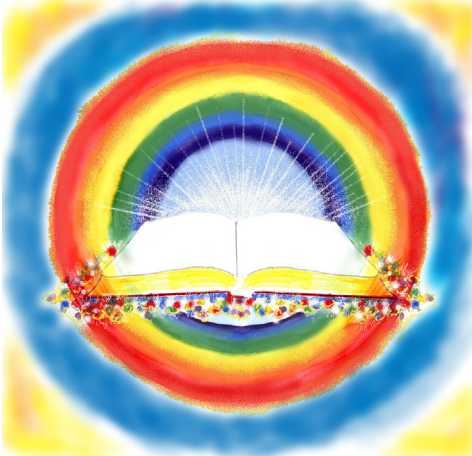


Read **True Christian Religion 162.6:**

When an angel from the third heaven comes near, the rainbow appears above and around the Word on a red background; when an angel comes from the second heaven and looks at it, the rainbow appears on a blue background; when an angel from the lowest heaven comes and looks, the rainbow appears on a white background.

Do all the angels see the rainbow? (Yes.) Only the background color changes. Angels from the third heaven are those who love the Lord more than anything else and always try to do what He wants. These angels are the ones who live in simple houses of wood or tents. They may have lambs or deer near them. When these angels came to look at the Word, what color background did they see? (Red.)



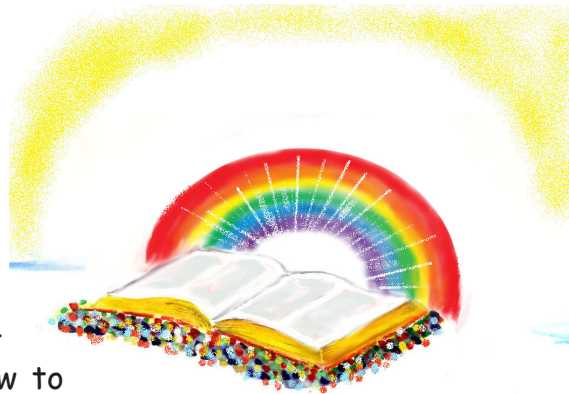


Angels from the second heaven like to make people happy and are always looking for ways to help others. They live in stone buildings like castles or palaces. What color did they see around the Word? (Blue.)

Angels from the first heaven love to obey the Lord. They live in houses similar to ours only even more lovely and delightful. What color background did they see? (White.)

Angels from different heavens see the Word in different ways because they have different loves in their hearts. But they all love the Lord and love to read His Word everyday.

Why do you think the Word in heaven is so beautiful and surrounded by such magnificent sights? Could it be these things show how very special and important it is? That is right. By reading the Word people and angels find out important things they can learn nowhere else. We find out about the Lord and heaven. We find out how to think clearly and make good choices. We find out how



much the Lord loves us and that He is always taking care of us. By learning recitations and prayers, you are already learning the Word. When you get older, you can read the Word every day just like the angels.

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ Do angels read the Word in heaven? (Yes.)
- ♦ What happened when Swedenborg saw the Word opened in heaven? (A light of indescribable beauty shone forth from it.)
- ♦ What did the precious stones near the Word make above and around it? (A rainbow.)
- ♦ What color was the background when an angel from the third or highest heaven came near? (Red.)
- ♦ What color was the background when an angel from the second heaven came near? (Blue.)
- ♦ And what color was the background when an angel from the first heaven came near? (White.)

THE WORD 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.

Matthew 6:19-21



Project choices:

The Word in Heaven project
Color a picture of the Word in heaven



Audio Stories:

"Happiness for Kerry"—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/audio-happiness-for-kerry/>

"The Lost Lamb"—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/audio-the-lost-lamb/>



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:

- ❖ Read just a few verses from the Word children so they can "learn like angel children."
- ❖ Make a little Word. Use red paper for the cover and white pages inside. Have children think of kind deeds that would bring happiness or be useful to others and color a picture on each page.

The Word in Heaven

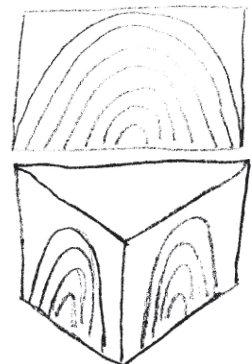
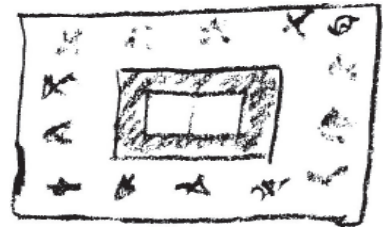
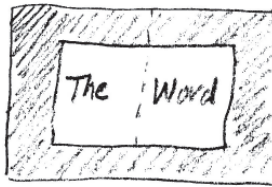
This project demonstrates how the Word appears in the three heavens.

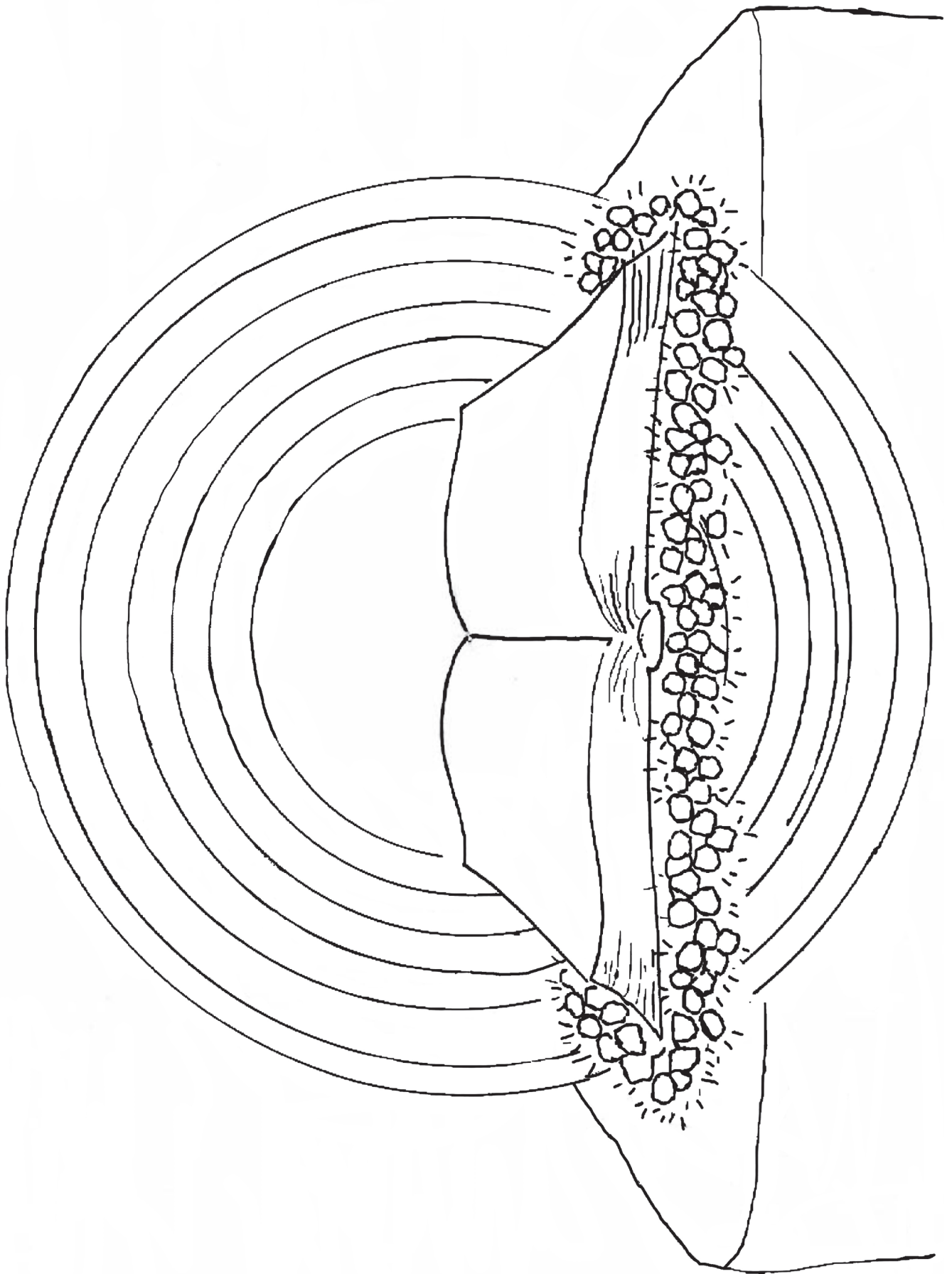
Supplies:

1/2 piece of white paper
1/2 piece of red paper
1 piece of brown paper
scissors
glue
Small pieces of red, blue, green, yellow and purple paper
1 piece of blue paper
1 piece of red paper
1 piece of white paper
oil pastels
tape

Project instructions:

1. Fold the 1/2 piece of red paper in half. Fold the 1/2 piece of white paper in half and then trim off about an inch on the three unfolded sides. Unfold both pieces of paper. Glue the small white paper in the center of the red paper to make a little Word with the pages open. Use a pencil to write "The Word" on the white paper.
3. The brown piece of paper is like a table top. Glue your Word in the center of the brown piece of paper.
4. Cut jewel-like shapes out of the small pieces of red, blue, green, yellow and purple paper. Circles, ovals and squares work well. Make a lot of jewels.
3. With glue, make small dots around the edge on the top of the table, the brown piece of construction paper. Glue the jewels you have cut out around the Word.
5. Now make three backgrounds for the Word by making a rainbow on each of the large pieces of white, red and blue construction paper. Use oil pastels to make broad bands of color. Remember that a rainbow has red at the top followed by orange, yellow, green, blue and purple in order.
6. Tape the three backgrounds together at the sides, forming a triangle when viewed from above. Put the triangle behind the Word. You can switch from one background to another to show how the Word appears to the angels in the three different heavens.





Recitation Award: The Word 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.

