

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 33
Learning to Be Good

Theme: Children in Heaven

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. There is no death, for life is eternal.
- B. People don't really die. The Lord wakes them up in the spiritual world after a short sleep. He gives them spiritual bodies that can live in heaven, and they no longer need the bodies they had in the world.
- C. There are 3 parts of the spiritual world: heaven, hell, and the world of spirits. Good people go to heaven. Bad people go to hell. And the world of spirits is the place between heaven and hell where people stay for a while before they go to heaven or hell.
- D. When children die, they are taken right to heaven. They grow up in heaven and live there forever.
- E. Children in heaven are given angel mothers and teachers who care for them and educate them in the ways of heaven.
- F. Children in heaven look to the Lord as their heavenly Father.
- G. In heaven, children are corrected in special ways. They might find a spot on their clothing or flowers fading in their garden when they misbehave. When they are sorry and make amends, their clothing or garden is again beautiful. They are also given special rewards for good behavior, such as a new dress, a new flower in the garden, or a shiny gold coin.
- H. It is evident that the Lord takes special care of children in heaven, but He also cares for children on earth, doing everything He can to lead them along the path to heaven.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Do you know what happens when a person dies? The Lord takes him to the spiritual world. He doesn't really die; he sleeps for a while, then he wakes up in the other world! If he is a good person, he will want to live in heaven. If he is a bad person, he will want to live in hell.

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2. Do you know what happens when a child dies? The Lord takes him straight to heaven! He gives him an angel mother who loves him very much and takes very good care of him. The child will grow up in heaven and become an angel. He will be very happy!
3. Today we are going to learn more about children in heaven. Here is a story about a little girl who lives in heaven.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read the attached story, "Happiness for Kerry".

C. Discuss the Story

1. What do children in heaven do in the morning? (They go to school.)
2. Can you remember something that Kerry did at school?
3. Who takes care of children in heaven? (Angel mothers and the Lord)
4. Why did Kerry stop cleaning her room? (She wanted to play with her friends.)
5. What did her friends make necklaces of? (Flowers)
6. What happened to Kerry's dress? (A spot appeared on it.)
7. Why did the spot appear on her dress? (Because she did something bad. She didn't finish cleaning her room, and she lied to her angel mother about it.)
8. How did Kerry feel when she saw the spot? (She was sad.)
9. How did Kerry make the spot go away? (She told her angel mother she was sorry, and she cleaned her room.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Did the story tell you something about life in heaven? (Kerry has an angel mother to take care of her. The Lord gave her a lovely house to live in. And Kerry has her own room with a bed, a chair, and a closet. She has toys and books and lovely clothes to wear. The Lord gives her everything she needs.) Do you think Kerry likes living in heaven?
2. In heaven the Lord has many special ways to help a child learn to be good. If a child is bad, a flower in his garden might droop down until the child is sorry. Or a girl might find a spot on her dress, and it won't come out until she is sorry. But if a child is very good, he might get a prize (reward) from the Lord. He might find a shiny gold coin. A girl might find a beautiful new dress in her closet or a new, gorgeous flower growing in her garden.
3. The Lord wants every child to go to heaven someday. He tries to help you learn to be good. Because you don't live in heaven, He can't give you special gardens, shiny coins, and new dresses to help you. But the Lord gives you everything you need to help you be good. He gives you parents. He gives you two guardian angels who are always with you. And best of all, the Lord talks to you in the Word, and He watches over you all the time!

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III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Every child in heaven has a garden bright," *Hymnal* #149.

B. Activities

1. Discuss what would happen to Kerry's dress if she:
 - a. Said the Lord's prayer? (It would stay clean.)
 - b. Would not share toys with her friends. (It would get a spot.)
 - c. Said something mean to a friend. (It would get a spot.)
 - d. Helped her mother. (It would stay clean.)

C. Project: Child in Heaven Clothespin Figure

1. Materials needed for each child:
 - a. Clothespin - prepared with yarn hair, face drawn with markers, and pipe cleaner arms
 - b. Two precut garments yarn or wire twist for belt
 - c. Felt markers
 - d. Optional: various trims for robes
 - e. Optional: a wooden stand or play dough to help the figure stand up.
2. Motivation:
 - a. Let's pretend that this is a child in heaven learning how to be good. We will make one robe for this child that is beautiful. The other robe will have a big spot on it. Which robe should we use when the child is good? (The beautiful one.) Which robe should we when the child is bad? (The one with the spot). If the child is sorry, then what robe does she wear? (The beautiful one).
3. Procedure:
 - a. Give each child a clothespin figure. Give one precut garment to decorate beautifully. (You may want to let them glue special trimmings on this garment, such as lace, sequins, glitter, etc.) Then give the children the second garment, and have them make a large dark spot on it. Let the children try the garments on the figures, fastening them at the waist with yarn or a wire twist.
4. Extending the Project:
 - a. You may wish to have each child make a diorama for the clothespin figures showing a home or garden in heaven. Or the whole group could make a diorama of a park for all the child figures to play in together. Construction paper, folded so that it will stand up, or large shoeboxes should work well for individual dioramas.

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IV. Teaching Aids

A. Illustrations from *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

A. *Life is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapter II, "Boys and Girls in Heaven."

B. *Heaven and Hell*, nos. 329-345.

C. *The Spiritual World* by Hugo Odhner, Chapter 7, "Children in the Other Life."

D. *Spiritual Diary*, nos. 5660-5667.

HAPPINESS FOR KERRY

Kerry smiled and her blue eyes smiled, too. There were many reasons to smile in heaven: the beautiful day, warm and bright; the flowers that glistened in the garden; the gentle deer drinking from the brook. But Kerry smiled because it was almost time to leave for school. She could hardly wait because she loved learning about the Lord and life in heaven at her school.

Now Kerry usually straightened her room before she went to school, but she decided to do it later. She wanted to pick flowers from her garden before school. She quickly dressed, putting on a yellow dress that seemed to shine in the sunlight. Then she hugged her angel mother and stepped out the door. Another lovely day! She walked to the garden and picked three red roses for her teacher. Then she skipped to school, humming a merry little song to herself.

School was outdoors in a splendid garden of trees and flowers. There was a table, a circle of chairs, and open space for playing. At the center stood a silver fountain spouting water. Kerry came to her outdoor school and greeted her friends and teacher.

Kerry did many things at her school. Today, the teacher told them about wonderful names for the Lord: Heavenly Father, King, Creator, Savior, Lord Jesus Christ. Next, they sang songs about the Lord and heaven. Then they drew pictures of angels doing their jobs: taking care of children, being a minister, teaching newcomers, and many more.

At the end of the morning, the teacher talked about happiness. She asked the girls what made them feel happy. One girl said she was happy because the Lord takes care of everyone. Someone said that playing with lambs and fawns made her feel happy. Several others spoke. Kerry said that helping people made her feel happy. Then the teacher said, "The Lord gives us happiness in many different ways, doesn't He?"

Kerry went home for lunch, and she told her family all about school. After lunch Kerry's angel mother said, "Please clean your room before you go outside to play, Kerry." This made Kerry sad because she wanted to play right then. But she went to her room, and she started to clean. She picked up three toys and put them away. She made her bed. Then she stopped to look out the window. Kerry saw her friends going to play in the meadow nearby. She looked at the books on the floor and the dress lying across her chair. Then she hurried out of her room. She assured her angel mother that her room was clean, and she ran out to play. Had Kerry stopped to look at her garden, she would have seen her flowers fading and starting to droop. But she was in a great hurry to see her friends.

When Kerry reached the meadow, her friends gave her a lovely necklace. It was made of blue and white flowers. Kerry put it on. She could hardly wait to see how it looked with her shining yellow dress. "Oh, no!" Kerry exclaimed. "Look at this awful spot." A large black spot was on her pretty dress. She knew she had done something wrong, but what was it?

Kerry thought about everything she had done that day. "Let's see. I went to school, I came home for lunch, then I cleaned my..." Kerry stopped. She knew what she had done wrong. "I lied to my angel mother about cleaning my room. No wonder I have this awful spot on my dress!"

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Kerry hurried home and told her angel mother everything. "I'm sorry that I lied about cleaning my room," she said. Then she hurried to her room. She put away her books and hung her dress in the closet. Now her room was clean. Kerry looked down at her dress. The spot was gone. How happy Kerry was! She ran to show her angel mother her clean dress. Then she went to join her friends again.

That evening Kerry talked with her angel mother about happiness. "We talked about happiness at school," Kerry said. "I know what happiness is now. When I do what is right, I am happy. But if I do something bad, I will be sad."

Kerry's angel mother said gently, "When you follow the Lord, He can make you happy. And He can help you grow to be an angel."

Outside Kerry's garden looked lovely again. Perhaps Kerry would visit her garden the next day and discover the seven new roses that bloomed there, their white petals edged with gold!