

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 16
Marriage in Heaven

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Conjugal love is from the Lord.
- B. Those who desire conjugal love must approach the Lord, love the truths of the church and do its goods.
- C. All the happiness of heaven springs from the delights of conjugal love.
- D. Angelic couples love to think and feel as one. Sometimes they appear as one angel from a distance.
- E. Angelic couples have spiritual offspring. They produce new loves and new thoughts in their life together.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. Did you know that the angels in heaven are married? The Lord gives each angel in heaven a marriage partner who is just right. And they live together happily, forever.
- 2. Many people get married in this world. After death, married partners meet each other in the spiritual world. And if they truly loved each other and were just right for each other, they will live together in heaven very happily.
- 3. What about people who never get married on this earth? What about people who weren't happy with their married partners? If they were good people, the Lord will lead them to find a partner who is just right.
- 4. Do you think that children who grow up in heaven get married? They certainly do! Today we will hear about a wedding that took place in heaven between two people who grew up there.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read the attached description, "A Wedding in Heaven."

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. The Lord gives every good person a partner in the spiritual world who is perfect for him or her.
- 2. Do you know why all of the angels are married? (Because they can be happiest and most useful that way.)

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3. Do people who were married on earth meet each other after death? (Yes)
 - a. Remember our story a few weeks ago about Paul and Margaret meeting in the spiritual world? They were husband and wife on earth, and because both of them were good and going to heaven, and because they were just right for each other, they stayed married in the other world.
4. When children grow up in heaven, they get married before they become angels. How do they find the right person to marry? (The Lord leads each one to find his or her marriage partner, and He helps them to realize that they are just right for each other.)
5. What is a betrothal? (A ceremony during which a man and woman promise the Lord that they will marry and love each other forever)
6. Are there weddings in heaven? (Yes)
7. What are the wedding clothes like that the guests wear to a wedding in heaven? (They shine with light)
8. Do you remember what the bride and bridegroom were wearing in the wedding described in the Word? (Bridegroom: shining crimson robe; bright linen tunic; gold ephod with diamonds and a young eagle engraved on it; priest's turban. Bride: scarlet mantle (loose, sleeveless cloak); embroidered gown reaching from her neck to her feet; golden sash; gold crown set with rubies.)
9. What was the candlestick like? (Gold with seven branches)
10. What did the bridegroom give to the bride? (A gold ring, bracelets, and a necklace of pearls)
11. After he gave her the ring and the pearl necklace and bracelets, he asked her to accept those signs of his love. Did she accept them? (Yes) Then he kissed her and said, "Now you are mine!" and then they were married. (In heaven, ministers don't perform the wedding ceremony.)
12. When the room was filled with sweet-smelling incense, what did it mean? (It was a sign of blessing from heaven.)
13. What food was served to the guests? (Small loaves of bread and wine. No one had to pour the wine. The glasses, which were empty before the wedding were full of wine after the wedding!)
14. We read about one wedding in heaven, but not all weddings are the same. Sometimes there are large marriage banquets, and the celebrations are different from community to community.
15. Where does the married couple go to live? (In the wife's home town where she grew up. They will find a house waiting for them.)
16. Angelic couples in heaven are very happy together. They are best friends, and they love to think and feel as one person. Sometimes they even look like one angel from a distance! And do you know what is wonderful? They will love each other more and more, and they will become happier and happier as they live in heaven together forever.

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17. The special marriage love that the angels have is called conjugal love. Do you know where conjugal love comes from? (It comes from the Lord.)
18. Did you know that the Lord wants to give married couples on earth conjugal love, too? We don't have to wait until we're in the other world to feel that heavenly married happiness!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "You Shall Love the Lord Your God With All Your Heart and Mind," FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN. p. 7.
2. "Angel Song," by Lori Soneson (Odhner). (Sheet music attached to Lesson #4; you can listen to it on LORI'S SONGS II, Side 2, near the end of the tape.)

B. Activities

1. Show children some of the items mentioned in the story: crystal glass and wine, small loaves of bread, gold crown, branched candlestick, gold ring, bracelets, pearl necklace, and a mantle.

C. Project

1. Make a picture or collage of the bride and bridegroom as they are described in the Word. Try to show the details given about their clothing.
2. Color the picture from *Heavenly Happiness*, p. 41 (copy attached)

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustration no. 12 from *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss.
- B. Illustration from *Heavenly Happiness* (retold by John Odhner)

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapter 12.
- B. *The Spiritual World* by Hugo Odhner, pp. 157-158.
- C. *Heavenly Happiness* (retold by John Odhner), pp. 38-40.
- D. CL 19-21, 211-216, 316, 321.
- E. HH 383.

A WEDDING IN HEAVEN

Children who grow up in heaven get married before they become angels. A young man is ready for marriage when he is about 18 years old. He is wise, strong, and handsome. A young woman is ready to be married when she is about 15 years old. She is good, gentle, and very beautiful. They are almost ready to start their life as angels.

The Lord knows when a man and woman are ready to get married in heaven, and He leads them to find each other. They are busy learning more about life in heaven and the work they will do in heaven, and they don't realize that they are ready for marriage. But one day, with the Lord's help, they see each other, and they know that they are right for each other. The young man says in his heart, "That's the girl I'm going to marry." And the young woman says, "This is the man I'm going to marry." They meet several times to talk and get to know each other better. When they are sure that they love each other with all their hearts, the young man asks her to marry him, and she says yes!

First, they go to a minister and have a betrothal. They promise the Lord that they will marry each other and love each other forever. They ask the Lord to bless their love.

Then, after a while, they have a wedding. The Word tells us about one of these weddings in heaven:

Once there were visitors in heaven from the world of spirits, and they were invited to a wedding. The visitors were given special clothes to wear to the wedding, and when they put them on, the clothes shone like a flaming light. An angel explained that clothes shine and become wedding clothes when they are going to a wedding. Then the angel led them to a building, the wedding house. When they entered, they saw a magnificent gold candlestick with seven branches resting on a table. Silver lamps hung on the walls. And there were two tables at the sides of the candlestick, with three rows of small loaves of bread lying on them. And in the four corners of the room were tables with crystal glasses on them.

Then they saw six virgins come in. And the bride and bridegroom came after them, holding hands. They led each other to a throne facing the candlestick. They sat down on the throne with the bridegroom on the left and the bride on his right. The six virgins stood beside the bride.

The bridegroom was wearing a shining crimson robe and a bright linen tunic. He wore an ephod with a gold plate on it. The gold plate had diamonds around it, and it was engraved with a young eagle. On his head was a priest's turban.

The bride was dressed in a scarlet mantle, and under that was an embroidered gown with a golden sash, and the gown reached from her neck to her feet. On her head was a crown of gold set with rubies.

When they sat down together, the bridegroom turned to the bride and placed a gold ring on her finger. Then he brought out bracelets and a necklace of pearls, put them on her, and said, "Accept these signs of my love." And when she accepted them, he kissed her and said, "Now you are mine!" and he called her his wife.

Then the guests cried out. "May there be a blessing!" And the room was filled with a sweet-smelling incense, which was a sign of a blessing from heaven.

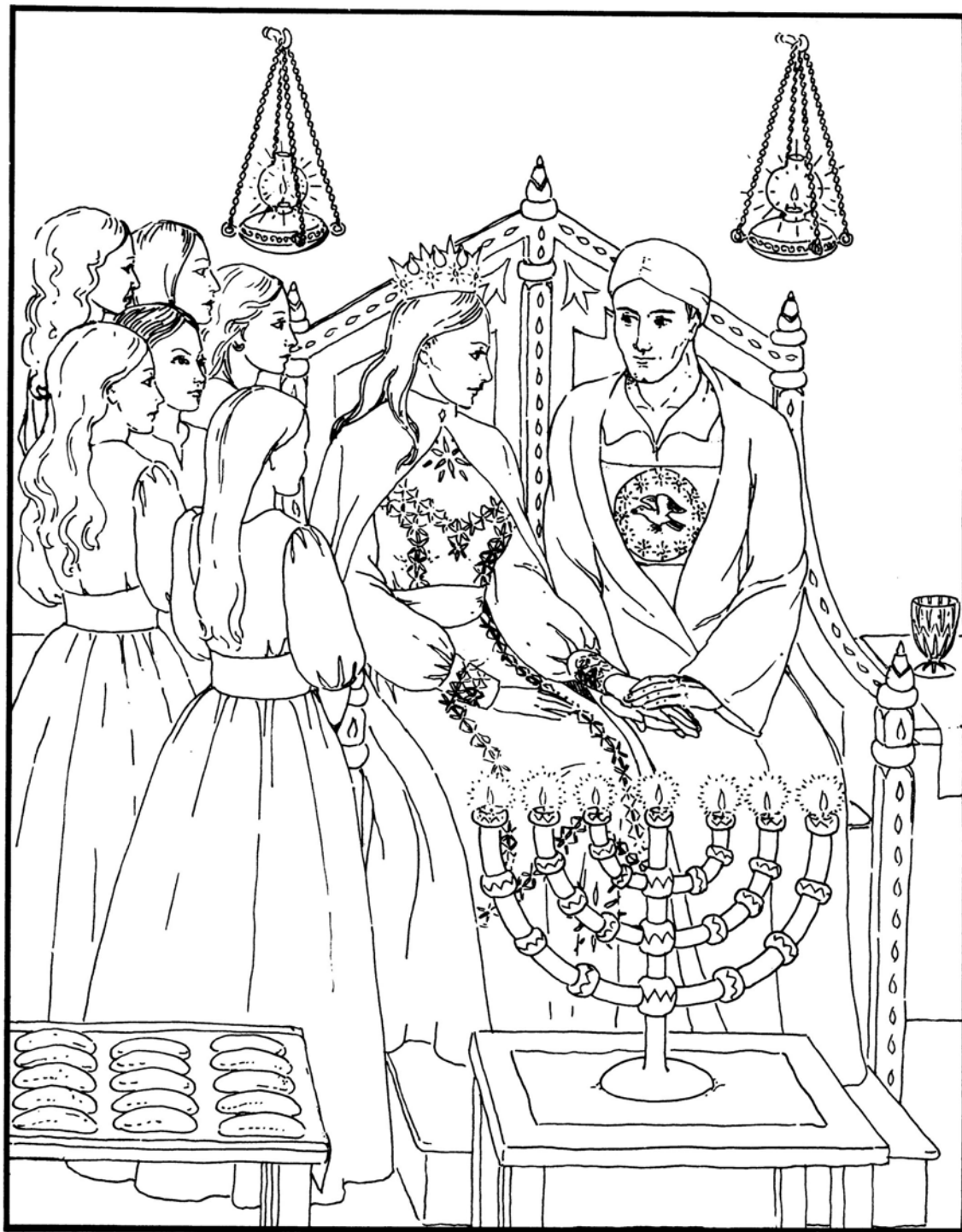
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The servants took bread from the two tables next to the candlestick. And they took the glasses, now filled with wine, from the tables in the corners. They gave each guest bread and wine, and they ate and drank.

After this celebration, the husband and his wife stood up. The six virgins with the silver lamps now lit in their hands followed them to the door of the bridal chamber. And the married pair entered the bridal chamber, and the door was closed. (CL 19, 20)

The Word also tells us that after the wedding, the couple will go to the town where the wife grew up, and they will find a house waiting for them there. They will begin their life as an angel in heaven, and they will be very, very happy forever.

(This material is condensed and adapted from *Life is Forever* by Peter Buss, pp. 27-28, and *Heavenly Happiness* [as retold by John Odhner], pp. 38-40.)



The bride was dressed in a scarlet mantle, and under that was an embroidered gown.
(Conjugal Love 20)