



Offspring in Heaven

Lesson Overview

1. True or False

No children are born in heaven; all are born on earth.

2. Read

Married couples in heaven raise children who have died as their own. They also have 'spiritual offspring', which are produced when a couple works together. pp. 1-2

3. Discuss

Discuss spiritual offspring. p.2

4. Optional Activity

Work together to create something as a group. p. 3

New Church Concept Spiritual Offspring

The spiritual offspring that are born from the marriage of the Lord with the church are truths, from which come understanding, perception and all thought; and also qualities of goodness, from which come love, charity and all affection. *Conjugal Love* 116

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True or False

Decide whether the following statements are true and false by circling T or F. Discuss your answers.

1. Children who die grow up in heaven. T F
2. Angel parents raise children who have died and gone to heaven. T F
3. Angel parents can have children of their own in heaven if they choose to. T F
4. Angel parents can have as many children as they want. T F

Read

In the natural world children grow up in families. So how do children grow up in heaven? Married couples in heaven do not give birth to children in the way that couples on earth do since people are born on earth in order to be raised into eternal life. However when babies die they are adopted by angels and raised in families in heaven. The Writings give us a picture of how children are cared for in heaven and what they experience as they grow up.

A love of little children remains after death, especially in women. As soon as little children are resuscitated, which happens immediately after death, they are raised into heaven and entrusted to angel women who, in their bodily life, loved little children and at the same time loved God. Since these angels when in the world loved all children from a motherly tenderness they receive these little children as their own, and the little children love them instinctively as though they were their mothers. Mothers have as many little children in their care as their spiritual storge causes them to desire.

Little children are all raised under the immediate guidance of the Lord.... After they have passed through this first age, they are transferred to another heaven, where they receive their schooling. *Conjugal Love* 410

Every child...is taught according to the Divine design and filled with affections for what is good and through them with direct knowledge of the truth; and then, being continually perfected in intelligence and wisdom, all such individuals are led into heaven and become angels. *Heaven and Hell* 329



All of the angels in heaven serve their communities. Raising children who have died is one form of useful service. Although couples cannot have their own babies like couples do in the natural world, they can give birth to “spiritual offspring”—which are “concepts of good and truth” (*True Christianity* 377). Another way to say this might be “states that are born to a couple through their interaction.”

Couples living on earth can have spiritual offspring too—for example creating a book. A husband and wife may conceive an idea for a book. The husband may draft their shared thoughts into a manuscript, and the wife may edit the manuscript, proofread it, and format it for publication. The finished book is something they have worked hard to create together. The give and take that is needed to produce spiritual offspring can bring couples closer to each other and closer to the Lord.

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Compare the blessings of raising a child with the blessings of producing “spiritual offspring” with a partner. How are they similar? How are they different?
2. Can you think of other examples of “spiritual offspring?”
3. How might spiritual offspring bring partners together—whether or not they can have natural offspring?
4. Why do children need to be born in earth in order to live to eternity? Why can’t they be born right into heaven? (See *True Christianity* 497, on right.)
5. Is it possible for a person to have spiritual offspring by him or herself, without a partner? (see *Conjugal Love* 116, p. 1)
6. People who have bright ideas sometimes say they have a “brainchild.” Is this the same as spiritual offspring? Why or why not?

Spiritual Offspring

Do a quick project or service activity as an example of “spiritual offspring.” A few possibilities are suggested here.

- Make a poster for your church. It could have a spiritual message, or announce an upcoming event.
- Prepare refreshments to serve after church.
- Neaten up a flower bed or plant flowers.
- Make cards for people in need. (Could be used later, as situations arise, e.g. new baby, thank you, get well, etc.)
- Clean a needy area of the church, e.g. kitchen, nursery.

The partnership between goodwill and faith is like the marriage between a husband and a wife. All their physical offspring are born to both the husband as their father and the wife as their mother. Likewise, all our spiritual offspring are born to goodwill as their father and faith as their mother. Spiritual offspring are concepts of goodness and truth. These concepts allow us to recognize the lineage of whole spiritual families. In fact, in the Word's spiritual meaning "a husband" and "a father" refer to goodness related to goodwill, and "a wife" and "a mother" refer to truth related to faith.

From these parallels it is clear that goodwill by itself or faith by itself could not produce good works, just as a husband by himself or a wife by herself could not produce children. *True Christianity* 377

Why We Are Born on Earth

While we live on earth, our spirit is midway between heaven and hell, and therefore midway between good and evil. As a result we are in equilibrium. This is what gives us free choice in spiritual matters. As long as we are alive in this world, our spirit is in an equilibrium between heaven and the world. At this point we scarcely realize that the more we turn away from heaven toward the world, the closer we move toward hell. The reason we are partly aware and partly unaware of this is so that in this regard as well we may be free and may be reformed. See *True Christianity* 497