Prayer Windows

Materials Needed
copies of the window images pp. 2-3, scissors, pens or pencils, tape

New Church Concept Window
A person's understanding part, that is, his internal sight is called a *window*. *Arcana Coelestia* 655

New Church Concept Prayer
Prayer is speech with God, and some internal view at the same time of the matters of the prayer, to which there answers something like an influx into the perception or thought of the mind, so that there is a certain opening of the person's interiors toward God. If prayer springs from love and faith, and if the person prays about and for things which are wholly celestial and spiritual, something like a revelation is present within prayer which manifests itself in the affection of the person praying in the form of hope, comfort, or some inward joy. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2535



Daniel prayed three times in his upper room, opening his window toward Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the center of worship for the Jewish nation. Turning toward Jerusalem means turning to the teachings of the church. Three means "complete and perfect". Students will write prayers that look through an "open window" toward the light of heaven.

1. When Daniel heard that King Darius was tricked into passing a law stating every-one should worship him, he went home to his upper room, opened his window, and prayed three times toward Jerusalem. Daniel faced the choice between obeying his God and being thrown to the lions *or* obeying the king's law. With-out hesitation, he stayed true to God.
2. Daniel represents conscience—the part of us where the Lord is present through the true ideas we know from His Word. The "upper room" pictures the higher or spiritual part of our minds where we talk to the Lord. Opening the window pictures us opening ourselves to the light of heaven.
3. Through his actions Daniel shows what our conscience does when we are test-ed—it draws us to the Lord in prayer and brings true ideas about what's right to our minds. In listening to conscience and lifting our minds in prayer, the Lord can send guardian angels to protect us from false thoughts that attack us.
4. There are several different kinds of prayer including praising the Lord, confess-ing acts of unkindness or bad habits, asking the Lord for help, and thanking the Lord for all He does.
5. We are going to make a "Prayer Window" that uses these four ways we can ap-proach the Lord in prayer. Give each student a copy of the two window pic-tures—one with closed shutters and one that is open (pp. 2-3), scissors, tape or a stapler, and a pencil or pen.
6. Start by cutting along the white lines on the shuttered window so the four shutters can open by being folded back. (See picture.) Place the shuttered win-dow over the open window. Tape the edges of the pages together.
7. Look at the type of prayer shown on the outside of each window. Open one window at a time and write a prayer inside that begins with the words on the outside of the window. Alternatively, you could write one prayer that uses all four concepts. Keep the prayer window to remind you of some of the ways you can talk to the Lord.

© 2022 General Church of the New Jerusalem



© 2022 General Church of the New Jerusalem

