Seeing from the Lord's Word

Materials Needed

Mask Template p. 2, paper plates, scissors, acrylic paint in various colors, cotton buds such as Q-Tips, craft sticks
optional: glitter, rock samples

Prepare in Advance

Gather supplies. Cut paper plates in half. Using the *Mask Template* p. 2 cut eyeholes.

New Church Concept
The Word in Heaven

Angelic spirits saw a table on which the Word lay closed, surrounded by precious stones arranged in a form like heaven. "When the Word is opened up," said the angel guard, "a light of inexpressible splendor shines out. At the same time, because of the precious stones, a kind of rainbow appears over and around the Word. When an angel from the third heaven comes here, the rainbow over and around the Word appears against a red background. When an angel from the second heaven comes here and looks, the rainbow appears against a sky-blue background. When an angel from the lowest heaven comes here and looks, the rainbow appears against a shining white background. When a good spirit comes here and looks, a light appears that is varied like marble. " See *True Christianity* 162.6

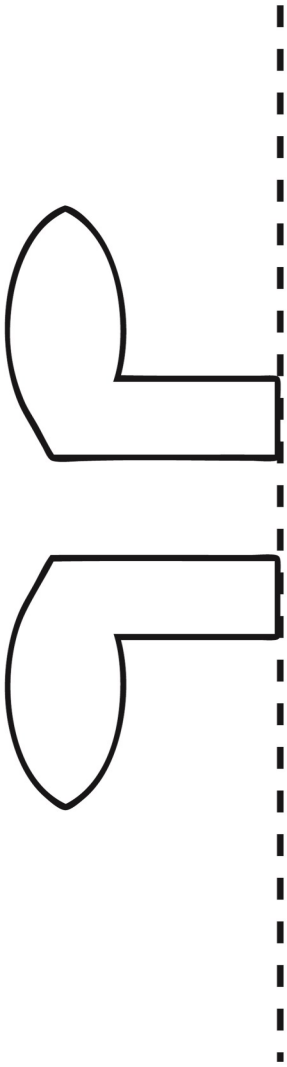


The rock that destroyed the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represents true ideas from the Word that have the power to change us from being selfish to loving the Lord and others. Emanuel Swedenborg once saw the power of the Lord's Word in the spiritual world. (See sidebar on left.) Children will create a rainbow mask to look through and imagine what it would be like to see others as the Lord and angels see them.

1. The rock Nebuchadnezzar saw was so strong it smashed a statue and grew into a mountain. Other rocks, like stones in an engagement ring, are tiny and beautiful. *Optional*: Show a variety of rocks. Rocks are like true ideas in the Lord's Word. They are strong, beautiful, and useful—like true ideas from the Word that help us do what is true, kind and useful.
2. Once when Mr. Swedenborg was in the spiritual world, he saw the Word on a table with precious gems around it. When the Word was opened, light from heaven shone on the stones and the angels saw a rainbow around it. The light around the rainbow changed color, depending on how the angels nearby understood the Word.
3. We are going to make a rainbow mask with "gems" on it. When we look through it we can think about keeping the Lord's Word in our minds in everything we see and do.
4. Give each child a paper plate cut in half, with eye holes cut out. Invite them to decorate one side of the plate with colorful gems (dots of paint) using cotton buds (Q-Tips) and acrylic paint.
5. *Optional*: Use additional cotton buds to apply dots of glue. Sprinkle with glitter in a variety of colors. Shake off excess glitter.
6. Tape a craft stick to one side of the mask so children can hold it up and look through the eye holes. Encourage the children to look through the mask with their "eyes from the Word".

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Mask Template



Directions for using template: Cut a paper plate in half. Place the cut edge of the plate along the dashed line on the template. Use scissors to cut out eye holes as shown.
Hint: Stack several cut plates on top of each other and cut out the eyeholes together.