Lesson 29: SINGING PRAISE TO THE LORD
Psalm 95-96

READING AND DISCUSSION:

Have the children take turns reading all the verses of **Psalm 95** and **Psalm 96**.

Both of these Psalms tell us to sing to the Lord. In fact, these Psalms *were* originally songs to the Lord, as were all the Psalms. The Word mentions many times that singing is a good way to praise God. Singing is always a part of worship in our church, our church schools, and our church camps. So why is it important to sing to the Lord? What *is* singing?

The Writings tell us that singing is actually *feelings* made into *sound.* People who work with movies, for instance, know how background music helps people's emotions get much more involved with the story. Singing and music come forth from people's feelings, and singing and music affect the feelings of those who are listening. Like anything, singing and music can be used to express and stir up good feelings or bad, so it is good when dealing with music to notice what feelings are involved.

When we sing in worship, we are letting good feelings toward the Lord come forth so that we and others can hear. Doing this really has a great affect on worship. It affects everyone who hears it. The Word encourages us to sing to the Lord, because we need to worship God with our hearts and feelings as well as with our minds and thoughts.

Angels in heaven love to sing, and they do it a lot. They use singing to express how glad they are to worship the Lord. They use it to express how excited they are about the Lord's truth, and how much they want to give all glory to Him. And when these feelings are expressed in song, then everyone who hears the singing is affected.

And are angels affected when we sing worship songs here on earth? Listen to this description of something Swedenborg observed and wrote down in *The Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture:*

> **Once, there were with me African spirits, living in the world of spirits, who had come from the country of Abyssinia. It happened that, at a certain point, their ears were opened so that they could hear people singing a Psalm of David in a church on earth. The spirits were so delighted at the sound of this that they joined in the song. Soon their ears were closed, so they could no longer hear the earthly singing. But they could still feel the delight that came from the song, even stronger than before, and they were at the same time filled with intelligence about the deep meanings of that particular Psalm of David. The song had connected these spirits with higher angels up in heaven, and made them have higher, more spiritual thoughts and feelings.** (adapted from *Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture,* 108)

Next time you sing in church or worship, think about that. You are affecting and connecting with not only the people you see around you, but good spirits and angels as well!

Praise to the Lord Project:
A Felt Thanksgiving Banner

PROJECT:

Supplies:
> About a yard of light blue felt
> Scraps of felt in many colors.
> Glue
> Scissors
> Letter stencils and cardboard note patterns (teacher should trace letters ahead of
> time*)
> Figure of the Lord

Procedure:
1. The children will need to cut out letters to form the following phrase from Psalm 95: OH COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD...LET US COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING.
   This involves cutting out the following amounts of each letter (it may go faster if you assign each child a letter at a time):

A –1	B-1	C-3	D-1	E-10	F-1	G-3	H-5	I-5	K-1	L-3
M-2	N-3	O-6	P-1	R-3	S-6	T-6	U-2	V-1	W-1	

2. Now arrange the words on the flannel banner.
3. Place the figure of the Lord (either cut out of paper of out of white felt above the letters.
4. Trace and cut out musical notes of felt, and place them around the words.
5. Decorate more, if you like, with felt fruit and vegetables.
6. Glue it all in place and display proudly in the church foyer.

Note: If the letters are traced backwards onto the felt with chalk or pencil, then after cutting it out and turning it around, the letters will have no marks.

Project Patterns

Patterns for Musical Notes