

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 32
The Lord is Our Heavenly Father (HH 118)

Theme: Heaven

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Spiritually, the Lord is our Father, and the Church is our Mother (CL 118).
- B. The Lord is called Father because He leads us like a father by means of good into truth (DP 330).
- C. The angels see the Lord in the sun (HH 118).
- D. Often they also see Him in a Human form (HH 121).

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. How do we start the Lord's prayer? ("Our Father who art in heaven...")
 - 2. The Lord is our Father and He loves us like we are His special children.
 - 3. The Lord takes special care of you. He wants you to be happy.
 - 4. All of the angels in heaven think of the Lord as their father. We'll read about how the angels see the Lord.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. "Seeing the Lord in Heaven" by Peter Buss (see attached)
- C. Ideas to discuss
 - 1. Where is the main place the angels see the Lord? (In the sun)
 - 2. How do angels feel when the Lord shines down on them? (Warm and happy)
 - 3. No matter which way angels turn, they are always facing what? (The sun of heaven)
 - 4. Does the sun in heaven ever go down? (No)
 - 5. Why? (Because the Lord is always with us)
 - 6. How else do the angels see the Lord? (As a Man with a wonderful light about His head)
- D. Further ideas
 - 1. Close your eyes and think about the Lord so you can see Him in your head. You are using your imagination! How does He look to you? He looks different to everybody.
 - 2. We can't really see the Lord except with our "spiritual" eyes. These are like our "angel eyes" inside of us! In heaven the angels see the Lord in the heavenly sun. Sometimes they see Him walking around too.
 - 3. (Show different pictures of the Lord) Which picture is your favorite?

Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2 – Lesson 32

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. *Hymnal* #152: "Father in heaven"
2. *Lori's Songs*: "Angel song"

B. Activities

1. Make up hand motions to the songs.
2. Ask the children if they would like to dance while you sing.

C. Project

1. Picture of our Heavenly Father
 - a. Children draw a picture of the Lord on white paper.
 - b. Teacher or children cut out picture.
 - c. Glue on bright colored paper.
 - d. Use white chalk, crayon, or glitter to show how special the Lord is.
 - e. Text slip, or title "Father in heaven" can be glued on.
2. An illustration of the Lord in the sun for the children to color.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Lots of illustrations of the Lord. The more you can find, the better.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

Seeing the Lord in Heaven

You know that when you go to heaven you will be close to the Lord. How will you be close? Will the Lord come and stand in front of you? Well, there are times when the angels do see the Lord with their eyes in heaven. But there are also other ways they see Him, and each way is very special and helps them to feel close to Him.

The main place the angels see the Lord is in the sun. Why does He seem to live in the sun? Well, you see His love is so strong that it seems like fire all around Him, like the sun of this earth. His truth is so bright that it is like the light of the sun. The Lord seems to have a sun around Him and that is the sun of heaven. The sun of heaven sends out its heat and its light to everyone in that world, into people's hearts. Its warmth is love and its light is truth. When the Lord's sun shines on you, you feel happy in your heart.

Sometimes when the angels look at the sun of heaven they see the Lord's face in it. It must be that the sun isn't so bright that it hurts their eyes when they look at it. They can see His face there, and they feel thrilled at seeing Him. Sometimes too He seems to be just a little apart from the sun, off to one side.

At very special times the Lord is seen in heaven as a Man. There is a story about a church in heaven, and when the highest angels were there, then the Lord was seen, standing on a special stone, and under that stone was His Word. The people were so filled with wonder and excitement that their Lord had come down to that church that they fell on their faces. Then the Lord was not seen any more, just the church. Sometimes also the Lord is seen in heaven with a wonderful light about His head.

I don't think that the Lord would stop and talk to you if you saw Him in heaven. You might wish that He would do that, but when you grow older you will understand that the Lord likes to talk to people in His own way. He likes to talk to them in their hearts. That is a kind of talking that only He can do, and it is much more important than talking so our ears can hear.

The angels feel truly close to the Lord when He talks to their hearts. They feel His love deep inside of them, making them feel warm. They feel His light shining in their minds, so they know what to do. Then they are happy, because they know the Lord is speaking in their hearts, teaching them things in a way that only He can do. He does this all the time in the heavens.

Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2 – Lesson 32

Sometimes on earth you will feel the Lord's happiness deep in your heart. You won't always know when it happens, but sometimes you will feel sure that this wonderful feeling comes from the Lord. It is the Lord talking to your heart. When that happens, you have felt a little bit of what the angels feel all the time. They are always very close to the Lord, and they love to feel Him filling their hearts with love, and filling their minds with wisdom. Then they turn their eyes to His sun, and let Him lead them.

I want to tell you two more things about the sun of heaven, where the Lord is. The first is simply wonderful, and it is that the angels can turn any way they want, and they still see the sun in front of them. That seems strange, doesn't it? It's a law of heaven, because angels are always looking towards the Lord in their minds, so they always see His sun in front of them. This way they never forget the Lord, not for one single minute. Sometimes on earth we forget Him, don't we? It's almost as if we turn our backs on Him. But the more we follow His truth, the more we will be looking at Him, just as the angels look at the sun all the time.

The second thing is that the sun of heaven never goes down. It always stays up, so there is no night. It gets a bit dim, but never dark. That is because the Lord never goes away from the people there. They do sleep, but they sleep with the sun shining—shining a little less brightly than it does in the daytime. When they wake up the sun is very bright again, like it is on a clear morning here, and they feel strong and rested.