

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 19
The Work that Angels Do

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Heavenly happiness comes from living usefully.
- B. The angels delight in their work from a love of use, not from a love of self or gain.
- C. There are more uses in heaven than can be counted. (HH 387)
- D. There are a great variety of uses in heaven. No one's use is identical to another's.
- E. The Lord does good and useful things through angels and people so that they can be happy.
- F. There are many jobs in heaven that are similar to jobs on earth.
- G. There are many jobs that only angels can do.
- H. Each community performs a use, and all angels serve as guardian angels. But each angel has his own specific use also.
- I. Angels are not aware of who we are or of what we're doing, but they are aware of our spiritual states.
- J. Angels perceive nothing more delightful than to remove evils from a person and lead him to heaven. (AC 5992)

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduction
 1. Today we will talk about the work that angels do.
 2. All of the angels work, and they love what they do.
 3. The angels work in the morning, and they recreate, or relax and have fun, in the afternoon and evening. They eat delicious food, walk in beautiful gardens, and visit with their friends. And every morning, they are eager to get back to their work.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 1. Read the attached talk, "The Work That Angels Do."

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. What are some of the angels' jobs that are like jobs people do on earth? (Ministers, parents, teachers, scholars, rulers and governors, judges, musicians, *etc.*)
2. What are some of the jobs that only the angels can do to help the Lord? (Messengers for the Lord, helping people as they enter the spiritual world, controlling the hells, and being guardian angels)
3. What do guardian angels do? (Drive away evil spirits when they attack us, and lead us away from bad feelings to good ones)
4. What can we do to make our guardian angels happy? (Let children name some specific good things— anything that makes us happy will make our guardian angels happy because they are aware of our spiritual states.)
5. At what time of day do the angels do their jobs in heaven? (In the morning)
6. What do they do the rest of the day? (Recreate, that is, relax and have fun, going for walks in gardens, visiting with friends, eating delicious food. [Can children think of other things? Reading, listening to music])
7. What is the best way you can think of to make yourself happy? (Listen to the children's ideas, but direct them toward a statement such as, "By doing something for someone else to make that person happy.")

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "You Shall Love the Lord Your God With All Your Heart and Mind," *FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN*, p. 7.
2. "Angel Song," Lori Soneson (Odhner). (Sheet music attached to Lesson #4; you can listen to it on *LORI'S SONGS II*, Side 2, near the end of the tape.)

B. Activities

1. Charades type game of uses/jobs in heaven. Child(ren) act(s) out a use/job, and the rest try to guess what it is. (Some ideas to get you going: playing a musical instrument, embroidering, cooking, reading to a little child)

C. Project: Jobs That Angels Might Do

1. Draw a picture of one or more uses/jobs that angels might do in heaven. Use markers on white or yellow paper for a bright, cheerful picture.

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IV. Teaching Aids

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. "The Work of Angels" by Douglas Taylor
- B. *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapter 17.
- C. *The Spiritual World* by Hugo Odhner, Chapter 15, "The Occupations of Angels."
- D. *Heaven and Hell* XLI, "What Angels Do in Heaven."

THE WORK THAT ANGELS DO

Adapted from chapter 17 of *Life is Forever* by Rev. Peter Buss

Do you ever think about what kind of work you would like to do when you are an adult? Perhaps you want to be a teacher or a minister. Perhaps you want to take care of little children. Or maybe you want to be a doctor, a writer, a lawyer, a chef, or an artist. There are lots of different things that people do, aren't there?

In heaven, there are so many different kinds of work that you can't even count them! Some of the work that angels do is like work that people do on earth, but some of the jobs are things that only angels can do.

Let's think of some of the jobs in heaven that are like jobs on earth. Some angels are ministers. Some work in libraries and colleges, studying books of wisdom and teaching other angels. There are princes to rule the cities, and there are angels who love to help the princes. Some angels are wise judges, and they help the lower angels settle disagreements. And there are musicians, singers, and people who put on shows. These jobs are similar to jobs on this earth.

There are a lot of angels who take care of children who are growing up in heaven. Some care for the little babies and young children. Others take care of the children who are ready for school. And there are many teachers in heaven to teach them the ways of heaven.

But what about the many jobs in heaven that only the angels can do? One example of this kind of job is being a messenger for the Lord. Do you remember the angel Gabriel who appeared to Zacharias and later to Mary? Do you remember the angel Michael whom John saw while he was on the Isle of Patmos? They were messengers for the Lord.

Some angels help dying people as they move from this world to the spiritual world. Other angels help these people as they are waking up in the world of spirits. There are also angels who love to guide people in the world of spirits, teaching them about heaven and protecting them from the evil spirits.

And there are angels who control the hells. Even though the people in hell are very bad, one angel is stronger than a thousand evil spirits because the angel believes in the Lord. So the angels are able to protect good people from the evil spirits, and they keep the evil spirits from being too cruel to each other.

All the angels help the Lord with a very important job— helping people on earth. There are angels with us all the time; they are called guardian angels. You have two guardian angels with you right now, and they never leave you. When you do something wrong, they are sad, and they move a little away from you. But when you do something good, they are very happy, and then they can stay very close to you. Whenever the evil spirits attack us, our guardian angels drive them away. And they lead us away from bad feelings and make us feel happy again.

There are many wonderful jobs for the angels to do in heaven, aren't there? And they do many more jobs there that we don't know about.

All the angels work in heaven, and they love what they do. The Lord could do all the work Himself because He is all-powerful; but He knows the angels would

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be unhappy if they had nothing useful to do, and He wants very much for them to be happy. So the Lord lets the angels help Him by giving them many different kinds of jobs to do.

Once there were some people from the world of spirits who had some wrong ideas about happiness. Some of them thought happiness was eating wonderful food forever; some thought happiness was always walking in beautiful gardens; and others thought happiness was talking with their friends all the time. They were allowed to do these things, but they became bored and sad, not happy! Do you know why? Here is what the angels told them about what really makes heaven a happy place: "If you work, then deep in your hearts you are happy because you are doing something for other people. Deep in your hearts you are being a little like the Lord, who is always doing things for people. Without work, nothing is fun."

(Adapted from *Life is Forever* by Peter Buss, pp. 77-79)

