

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 11
What You Really Are Like

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. There is no death, for life is eternal.
- B. The world of spirits is where people stay for a while before they go to heaven or hell.
- C. Whatever a person has done during his lifetime gradually reappears in the next life, indicating his ruling love. (AC 823, DP 277a)
- D. The evils are separated from the good, so they can't harm the good.
- E. Each person becomes an image of his ruling love. It is reflected in his face, body, and speech. (HH 481[2])

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Most people stay in the world of spirits for a while before they go to heaven or hell. And the most important thing that happens in the world of spirits is that people show what they are really like.

B. Ideas for Presentation and Discussion

1. Appearances

- a. Can we tell what people are like from how they look?
- b. Is a pretty person a nice person?
- c. Is an ugly person a mean person?
- d. We can't really tell what a person is like by how he looks. A beautiful person could be good or bad on the inside. And an ugly person could be very nice or very mean.

2. Actions

- a. Can we tell what people are really like from the way they act? How a person acts can tell us a lot more about them than how they look, but we can still be fooled.
- b. [Read aloud Matthew 2:7,8.] Did Herod really want to worship the Baby Lord? No. Herod was an evil man, and he wanted to kill Jesus! The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to Herod.

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- c. Some people pretend that they are good when they are really bad. They think what is evil and say what is good. For example, a man might hate another man, but he pretends to like him so he can visit his home and steal things from him. Can you think of more examples?
- d. Someone who is good on the outside and evil on the inside is like a vase that is polished and gleaming on the outside, but it is very dirty on the inside (HH 505). (Matthew 23:25,26 similar)
- e. Only the Lord knows what a person is like inside. How does He know? (He knows everything. He knows what we are thinking and feeling, as well as what we do.)

3. Evil People

- a. In the world of spirits evil people are allowed to pretend to be good for a while. But then they stop pretending, and they show what they are really like inside. They do bad things like they did on earth, and other bad things that they always wanted to do but never dared.
- b. A person who loves evil has an ugly heart, so his body and face will become ugly, too. He won't think he looks ugly, but good people will see his ugliness and stay away from him.
- c. The Lord keeps the bad people away from the good people so they can't hurt them.

4. Good People

- a. Sometimes a truly good person doesn't seem very nice on earth. Perhaps he is sick, and this makes him unhappy. Maybe she worries a lot or is too busy, and this makes her get angry. In the world of spirits, the Lord can take away sickness, worries and busy schedules so that good people can be happy.
- b. Sometimes good people do bad things because they don't know right from wrong. But in the world of spirits, they learn what is right, and this makes them happy.
- c. In the world of spirits, a good person starts to become an angel. "All his lovely feelings suddenly shine in him, and he feels like a man who was walking in the darkness and now sees the sun rise. The Lord teaches him new things about how to be good and kind, and he feels happier and happier as each day brings him closer to being an angel and nearer to heaven." (From *Life is Forever*, p. 11)

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- d. A person who loves what is good has a lovely heart, so his face and body will become lovely. No matter how old or young, fit or thin, ugly or beautiful a person is, he will become more beautiful than you could even imagine! A woman would become beautiful and gentle. A man would become handsome and strong.

C. Conclusion

1. The Lord said, "The kingdom of God [or heaven] is within you." (Luke 17:21)
2. Which matters more, what you are like on the outside or on the inside?
3. Who can know what you are really like? (The Lord)
4. How can you keep the inside of your vase just as clean and lovely as the outside? Another way of saying this is, "How can you have heaven inside you?" (Love the Lord and other people; think good thoughts; and try to do what the Lord wants you to do.)
5. Some people think that heaven is just a place where you go to live. But unless heaven is inside of you, you won't be able to live there.

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," by Lori Soneson (Odhner). (Sheet music attached; you can listen to it on LORI'S SONGS II, Side 2, near the end of the tape.)

B. Activities

1. Look at pictures of people in conjunction with the section, "Appearances".
2. Look inside a vase that is dirty inside, clean outside when discussing "Actions".

C. Project (Choose One)

1. A collage of a beautiful person and the sun rising in darkness: Give children precut poster board (or other stiff paper) figures to give a beautiful face and yarn hair. Dress with a wallpaper garment or markers. Mount figure on dark blue, black, or purple paper. Add a gold foil sun and rays of gold glitter. (Text Slip: "As good people get ready for heaven, they feel like they are coming from darkness into light." [HH 505])

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2. A stick puppet depicting a beautiful person on one side and an ugly person on the other: Cut 2 identical figures. Color one to look beautiful, the other ugly. Add yarn hair (optional). Glue back-to-back with a popsicle stick in between and extending from the base of the figures to use as a handle.
3. A picture of a person with a flap of another face glued or taped overtop of the original face so the person's face can change, either from being beautiful (good) on the inside and ugly (evil) on the outside, or vice versa.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. A stick puppet or cardboard figure that depicts a beautiful person on one side and an ugly person on the other. Use to illustrate various aspects of the presentation.
- B. Illustration from the book, *Life Is Forever*, by Peter Buss, no. 5.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *Heaven and Hell*, Chapters 49 and 52.
- B. *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapter 5.

Text Slips for "What You Are Really Like" Projects

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