

General Church Education



The Fourth Day

Genesis 1:14-19

Lesson 4

Youth Journey Program

Creation: Reflection of God

Level B: For ages 7-10 years

Teacher Background

Creation: Reflecting God through Correspondences

A Key for Understanding the Word

There is a New Church teaching that, “The Word of God is like a body with a living soul” (*Arcana Coelestia* 1408). Many readers have sensed this deeper level of meaning within the words and images of the Bible.

God wrote His Word so that every image contains multiple levels of meaning. The literal meaning focuses on the natural, physical world. A deeper symbolic meaning focuses on the world of the spirit, the world of the human mind. The relationship between the two levels is called “correspondence”. Natural images and symbols “correspond” to spiritual qualities.

We often make this connection between levels without thinking about it. For example, we may talk about not “muddying the waters”, or say that a child is “testing the waters”. When we say “not muddying the waters” we are not talking about water at all; we are saying that false or misleading ideas should not be brought into a situation. Similarly, a child “testing the waters” is experimenting with his or her behavior to see how others react. These sayings make connections between the way true ideas work in our minds with the way water works in the natural world.

Jesus made connections like this in His conversations with people. To a woman at Jacob’s well, He said, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). Jesus was associating the true spiritual ideas He came on earth to teach with water. The connection is in how they are useful—how they work in our lives. True ideas from the Word cleanse our thoughts just as water cleanses our bodies.

Sometimes these connections are harder to see in the stories of the Old Testament. The key, according to the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church, is this concept of correspondences. Correspondences allow us to see more than the general allegory of the human journey to the “promised land” of heaven. They help us see who God is and what He intends for us in specific ways. A knowledge of correspondences can help us gain fresh insight into the stories of the Old Testament.

This is true for the creation story. The Heavenly Doctrine explains creation in terms of a person’s step-by-step spiritual progress along the path to heaven. Each “day” of creation pictures a new level of personal development. The seventh day is a beautiful picture of the restful state of heaven—a state free from the struggles against selfishness that we all deal with in this world.

The spiritual meanings of the days of creation are interwoven throughout this lesson. We hope they bring this familiar story to life in new ways.

Correspondences are natural truths in which spiritual truths are reflected as in a mirror. *Arcana Coelestia* 9300



The Fourth Day

Level B

Genesis 1:14-19

Ages 7-10

Life Focus: The Lord made me and wants me to live with Him in heaven.

Lesson Focus: The Lord loves everyone and wants everyone to live in heaven when they die.

Reading: Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day (Genesis 1:14-19).

Lesson 4

		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Getting Started (2-3 minutes)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	The Sun and the Earth directions p. 4	working flashlight
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word	see <i>Reading</i> above	
	Talk About It discuss the reading	Talk About It discussion guide p. 4	<i>optional:</i> flashlight, mirror, copy of the Word
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Make a Moving Model create a model showing how the earth and the moon move around the sun	Circle the Sun directions p. 5 <i>Circle the Sun</i> p. 7	large paper plates, paper fasteners (3 for each student), stiff paper, scissors, glue and yellow tissue paper OR markers to decorate the sun
	Share the Lord’s Love use body heat to warm a rock; give it to a classmate to symbolize sharing the Lord’s love	Share the Heat! directions pp. 5-6	smooth stones that fit nicely in a child’s hand (one for each child), such as a river stones or polished rocks, <i>alternative:</i> marbles, a bowl or basket, refrigerator
	Coloring Picture	The Fourth Day p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce memory verse for the week	Memory Verse p. 6 <i>Parent Note</i> p. 10	

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

The Sun and the Earth

Explore how the earth moves around the sun. Have children join hands in a circle *facing out* and keeping eyes forward at all times to represent the earth. Choose one child to be the sun and stand *outside* the circle and shine the flashlight on others as they pass. *Slowly* turn the circle counter-clockwise, taking small side steps. This will give each child plenty of time to face the sun directly. As you face the sun say, “Good morning sun!” Continue turning the circle until the first person that spoke to the sun faces the sun again.



What do we call the time it takes each person to greet the sun, go around the circle and then greet the sun again? (1 day). Did you notice how each part of the earth receives sunlight each day? As the earth spins each part sees the sun once a day, it also makes a big oval trip all the way around the sun. Is there anyone who likes to turn around and does not get too dizzy? Choose one person to be the earth. The other children will hold hands, but this time will represent the sun and stand still. The “earth” will spin in circles while walking in a large oval “orbit” around the sun. Each time the earth turns will be 1 day. It takes 365 days or one whole year for the earth to go around the sun once.

2. Focus on the Word

Read

Genesis 1:14-19

Optional: flashlight, mirror, copy of the Word

Talk

What did the Lord create on the fourth day? The sun, the moon, and the stars.

About It

The powerfully hot and bright sun is at the center of our solar system—just as the Lord is at the center of our lives. Without the sun’s light and warmth the earth would be so cold that nothing could live. Without the Lord’s love we would have no life at all!

When we turn toward the Lord (as the earth turns to the sun) we can receive His love in our hearts. When might we feel the Lord’s love in our hearts? When doing what the Lord teaches in His Word makes us happy.

The sun gives us light—just as the Lord gives us true ideas in His Word. The sun’s light helps us see where we are going. *Optional: shine a flashlight on the Word.* True ideas from the Lord light up the path to heaven—just as a flashlight lights up the Word.

In heaven, the warmth of the Lord’s love and the light of His wisdom create the sun the angels see each day.

The moon shines when it is dark by reflecting light from the sun. *Optional: shine flashlight on a mirror and shine the mirror on the Word. Look at the Word.* Which is brighter—the sun or the moon? The sun.

Light from the moon is like our knowledge about what is good and true—it helps us find our way to heaven even when we do not feel the Lord’s love—but it is not as bright as light from the sun.

The stars are suns that look tiny because they are far away. Each one has its own planets circling around it. Could you count the stars? No, there are so many! And yet the Lord made each one.

Just as the Lord makes the warm sun shine down on everyone in the world, He sends His love to everyone through His Word. He wants everyone to know the path to heaven, because He wants us to live there after we die.

3. Learn by Doing

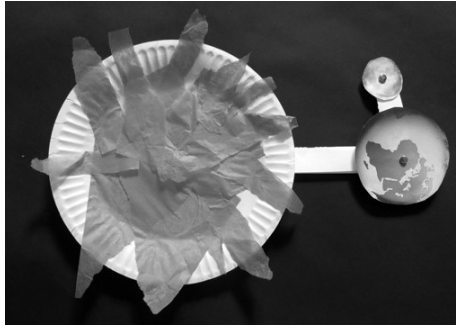
Choose one or two activities

Choice

Circle the Sun

Make a model of the sun, moon and earth showing how they move in relation to each other.

1. We are going to make a model showing how the earth and the moon move around the sun. What is the sun like? (Very hot—so hot we cannot get near it. It is very large—more than 100 times larger in diameter than the earth.)
2. Start by cutting out the earth and the moon. Hand out *Circle the Sun* (p. 7) printed on stiff paper, and scissors.
3. Next, create the sun. Give each child a paper plate. *Optional*: decorate with crayons or using yellow tissue paper and glue.
4. Use a paper fastener or other sharp point to poke holes at the center of the sun and earth, and at the ends of the “arms” for the moon and earth.
5. Assemble the project. Poke a paper fastener through the center of the sun and then through the long “arm” that was cut out. Make sure the arm can rotate around the sun. If it is too stiff, loosen the paper fastener, or make the holes larger.
6. Attach the moon to the short “arm” using a paper fastener.
7. Complete the project by poking a paper fastener through the center of the earth, then the short arm and then the long arm. Spread the fastener to secure all layers. Check to see that the moon rotates freely around the Earth. Make adjustments if needed. Experiment with moving the earth around the sun and the moon around the earth.
8. How often does the earth circle around the sun? (Once a year.) How often does the moon circle around the earth? (Once a month.)
9. As we see the sun each day we can think about the Lord sending His heavenly love and light on us.



Materials for Each Child

large paper plate (white or sun-colored), *Circle the Sun* p. 7 printed on stiff paper, 3 paper fasteners, *optional*: yellow tissue paper and glue OR markers to decorate the sun

Prepare in Advance

Tear yellow tissue paper into small pieces to glue to the sun.

New Church Concept

The sun is a symbol of love to the Lord, because the Lord appears before the angels in the heavens as a sun, and His appearance as a sun is from the Divine love (*Apocalypse Explained* 981).

The moon is a symbol of the truth of faith, because the moon is bright white from the light from the sun (*Apocalypse Explained* 401).

Stars are symbols of knowledges of goodness and truth (*Secrets of Heaven* 1808).

Choice

Share the Heat!

We receive life from the Lord at each moment. His love flows into our bodies and is the source of the warmth we feel inside us. We can share the Lord’s love by using our energy to love others by doing good and useful things for them. Give each child a cold stone to warm in his or her hands during discussion time. Have them give the warmed stones away while sharing a kind word with a classmate.

Materials Needed

smooth stones that fit nicely in a child’s hand (1/child), e.g. river stones or polished rocks, *alternative*: marbles; a bowl or basket; refrigerator

Prepare in Advance

Put rocks in refrigerator to be cold for the activity.

Share the Heat! *continued*

1. Remove rocks from the refrigerator or freezer and put in a basket or bag to pass so children can choose a rock.
2. Seat children in a circle and invite each one to choose a rock. Encourage them to see the beauty of the rocks and pick one they like.
3. How does the rock feel in your hand?
4. Let's see if we can warm up the rocks. How can we warm them up? (Brainstorm, driving towards the idea that we can hold them in our hands, allowing our own body heat to warm them up.)
5. Why are our bodies warm? (Scientists explain this in a number of ways, but the key here is that we are warm because we are alive—and our life is from the Lord. His love keeps us alive every moment! So the warmth we feel in our bodies is really the Lord's life in us. The Lord's love and life in us are warming the rock!)
6. How does your rock feel now? (Our body heat, which is from the Lord, is making the rocks warm. Rocks also become warm or hot in the sun, which is created by the Lord.)
7. Now that your rock is warm, give it to the person to your right. As you take a rock, feel how warm it is. Who warmed the rock? (The Lord—through each one of us! The Lord's life gives us the power to do *everything* we do—just as the sun in the sky is the source of all energy in the world.)



Choice

Coloring Picture: The Fourth Day

Hand out copies of *The Fourth Day* (p. 9) and invite the children to color it.

Materials for Each Child

The Fourth Day p. 9; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Read the memory verse aloud. Invite the children to repeat it after you and then have them try to say it on their own.

**Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day,
and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.**

Genesis 1:16

Closing

The sun we see each day reminds us that the Lord is lovingly shining on us—warming us with His love and lighting our path to heaven by the truths in His Word. He wants us to find the way to heaven, and He helps us by showing us how to get there.

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 10) to children as they leave.

Earth

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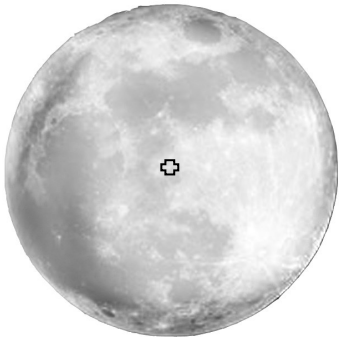
sun

Earth

+

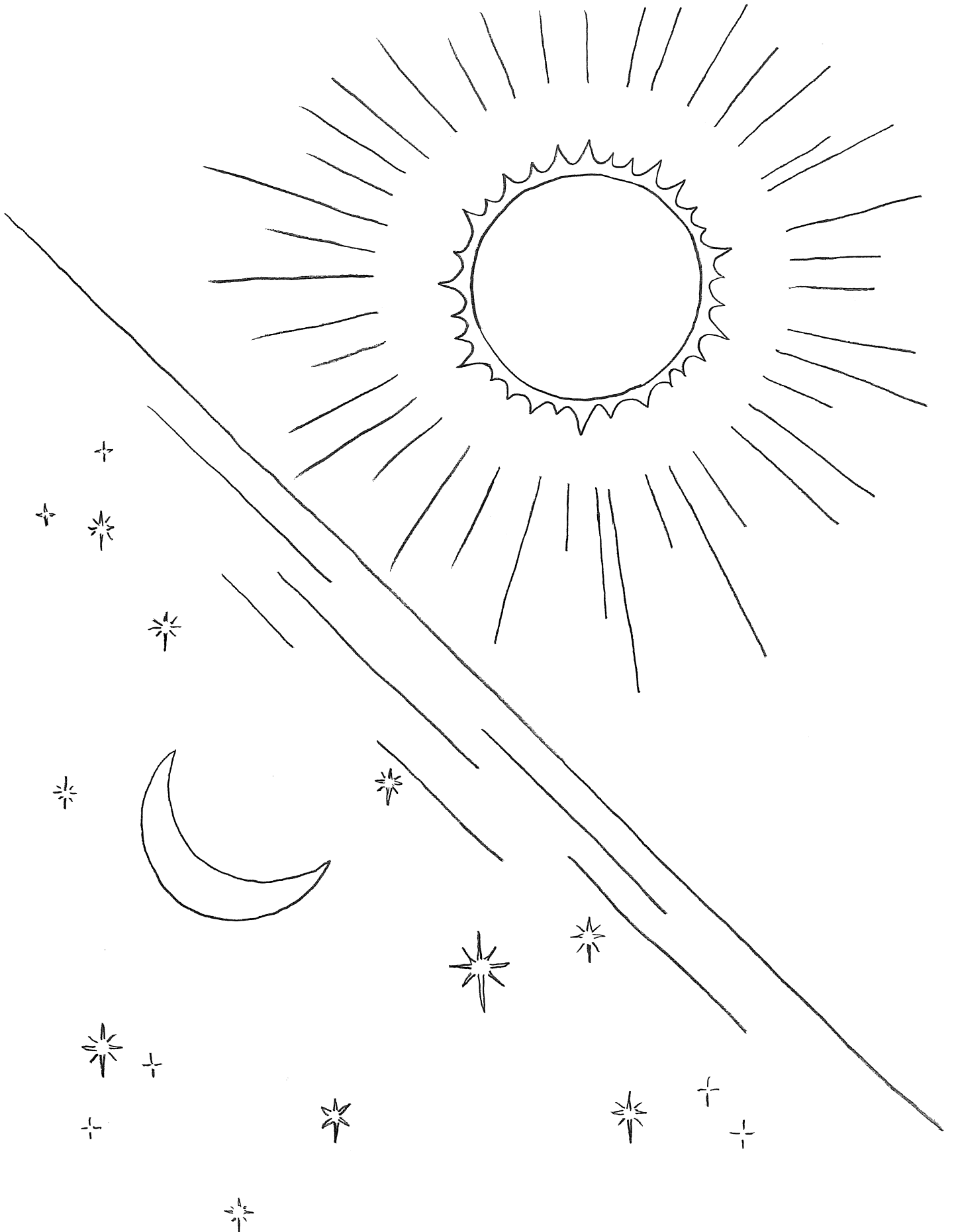
moon

+



Circle the Sun





The Fourth Day

Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, Today we learned that the sun gives us warmth and light just as the Lord warms our hearts with His love and gives us true ideas in His Word. You might like to look at some amazing videos of the sun, moon and stars at www.bitly.com/WondersOfCreation. We encourage you to help your child learn this week's Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also (Genesis 1:16)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PARENT NOTE</p> <p>Dear Parents, Today we learned that the sun gives us warmth and light just as the Lord warms our hearts with His love and gives us true ideas in His Word. You might like to look at some amazing videos of the sun, moon and stars at www.bitly.com/WondersOfCreation. We encourage you to help your child learn this week's Memory Verse. Try saying it once or twice in the morning, at mealtime or before bed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memory Verse</p> <p>Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also (Genesis 1:16)</p>
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