



Crossing the Red Sea

Level C

Ages 11-14

Exodus 14:8-31 - selections

Series Theme: The Lord leads and provides for us, and we can choose to follow Him.

Lesson Focus: The Lord helps people flee from evil and turn to Him.

Reading Summary: Moses asked Pharaoh to let the children of Israel leave Egypt, but Pharaoh refused. So the Lord sent plagues on the Egyptians. Finally Pharaoh let them go. The Lord led them out of Egypt by means of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They followed it to the sea. Then the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh chased after the children of Israel. When the children of Israel saw the Egyptians coming they were frightened and complained that they would die in the wilderness. But the Lord promised He would save them and told Moses to stretch his rod out over the sea. The Lord sent a big wind. The wind divided the sea and created a dry path for the children of Israel to cross over. The Lord protected them by putting His angel and the pillar of cloud between them and the Egyptians. The Egyptians followed them into the sea. The Lord told Moses to stretch his hand out again and the waters returned, destroying the Egyptians. The Lord saved the children of Israel, and they believed in Him.

Lesson 3		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Game	Cross the River directions p. 2	plank of wood (approx. 4' x 6" or 120cm x 15cm); 3 sturdy supports to go under plank, e.g. coffee or paint cans; 2 ropes approx. 10'-12' (3.5m x 4m); open space
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above <i>Crossing the Red Sea Readings</i> p. 5 discussion guide p. 2	
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Role Play discuss differences between fears motivated by heaven and by hell; identify fears and find ways to move forward through role play	Brand, Stand, Land directions p. 3 <i>Brand, Stand, Land Scenarios</i> p. 7	open space for acting
	Explore and Make discuss the strong wind that parted the Red Sea and Swedenborg's witness of a judgment in the spiritual world; finish by creating a balloon-powered pinwheel	East Wind Pinwheel directions pp. 3-4 <i>An Experience in the Spiritual World</i> p. 8 <i>East Wind Pinwheel Directions</i> p. 9	straws with bendable ends, balloons, new unsharpened pencils with erasers, straight pins, tape
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Take the Message Home introduce the take home page	Moving Away from Evil p. 10	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Cross the River

Supplies needed: plank of wood 4'x6" (120cm x 15cm); 3 sturdy supports to put under the board, e.g. coffee or paint cans; 2 ropes approximately 10'-12' (3.5m x 4m); open floor space

Before students arrive, line up 3 supports in a row and put the plank of wood on top to create a low "bridge". Space the supports so the bridge will not easily flip up when students step on one end. Lay a rope down at each end of the bridge to create a "river".

The goal is to get all students in the class on the bridge and then off the bridge on the other side at the same time *without having any students fall into the 'river'*.

1. What made the activity challenging? What made it easy?
2. Have you ever encountered a situation like this in your own life? How did it work out?
3. Right after the children of Israel left Egypt they were faced with a situation where they all needed to cross the Red Sea *without* a bridge. Let's see how the Lord miraculously helped them do this.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Selections from Exodus 14:8-31 on p. 5.

The Lord called Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt where they had lived for 400 years. Pharaoh, the ruler, did not want them to leave. He finally agreed they could go after the Lord sent ten plagues. As the children of Israel prepared to leave, the Lord sent a pillar of cloud to guide them by day and a pillar of fire to guide them by night, and they departed.

Why did the Egyptians pursue the children of Israel? To make them slaves again.

Who was stronger—Pharaoh and the Egyptians or Moses and the children of Israel? The Egyptians rode in chariots pulled by horses. The children of Israel were on foot with their possessions and became trapped between the Egyptians and the Red Sea. The Egyptians appeared to be stronger, but the children of Israel were protected by the power of the Lord.

Captivity in Egypt is like being caught in a habit that leads away from heaven. What kinds of habits might trap people like this? Acting selfishly from worldly and not spiritual goals; breaking the 10 Commandments.

The children of Israel followed a pillar of cloud and fire to freedom. This pictures the way that following the Lord's Word frees people from bad habits that hold them captive.

Almost as soon as they had left Egypt, the children of Israel begged to go back. What did Moses say to them? He said, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."

What did the Lord do to help them? He parted the Red Sea by means of Moses' rod and a strong east wind, allowing the children of Israel to escape. The pillar and the Angel of God protected them from the Egyptians who were right behind them.

In a similar way the Lord can free people from false ideas and evil loves when they follow Him in His Word. True ideas and angels are with people at every moment.

What happened when Moses stretched his rod out over the sea again? The sea returned, drowning the Egyptians so they could not be a threat any more.

Just as Moses led the children of Israel, true ideas hold the power to spiritually lead a person to safety. They allow people to see harmful or evil choices, to flee from them, and to follow the Lord. Just as it was difficult for the children of Israel to break free from the Egyptians, bad habits can hold people captive for a long time. The Lord guides people safely away from danger and protects them when they choose to follow Him.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice Brand, Stand, Land

Almost as soon as the children of Israel left Egypt, they saw the Egyptians pursuing them and were terrified. They wanted to go back to Egypt. Being a prisoner in Egypt pictures a time when a person is captivated by worldly and selfish desires. When people make deliberate efforts to stop behaviors like this and follow a new spiritual path they may experience fears. For example, “Will others make fun of me?” “Will people take advantage of me?” This activity explores both heavenly and selfish fears through role-play.



1. Why were the children of Israel afraid when they saw the Egyptians coming?
2. What kinds of things make people feel afraid?
3. What is fear? (Concern about a threat of losing something we love.)
4. The Word describes two sources of fear: heaven, and hell. What might “heavenly” fear be? (Fear of hurting the Lord or others; also called “holy” fear.) Can you think of an example of heavenly fear?
5. What would fear from hell be? (Fear of losing worldly possessions or selfish control over others, etc.)
6. Distribute *Brand, Stand, Land Scenarios* (p. 7). Read and discuss the chart at the top of the page. The name of the activity describes ways we can deal with fear: (1) *Brand*= name the fear, and identify whether it is good or bad. (2) *Stand*= be still and think about how to act. (3) *Land*=walk on the path of “dry land” ahead.
7. Divide students into pairs. Each pair of students will act out one of the 12 scenarios provided. Choose a time to stop the action and discuss the fear that is motivating each person’s actions. If the situation remains unresolved, encourage students to suggest wise ways of moving forward in the situation.

Choice East Wind Pinwheel

The Red Sea was parted by means of a strong east wind. Spiritually the wind pictures true ideas that have the power to cut through a sea of false thinking. Moses called the wind a “blast” from the Lord’s “nostrils” (Exodus 15:8). The Lord’s breath infuses heaven with life. This activity explores the effect of the Lord’s heavenly wind on people in heaven and hell. Finish by making a balloon-powered pinwheel.



Materials Needed
copy of *Brand, Stand, Land Scenarios* p. 7 every student, open space for acting

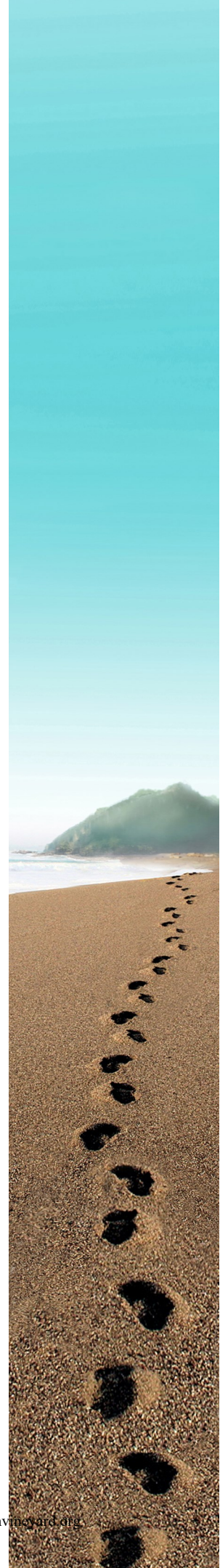
Prepare in Advance
Print copies of *Brand, Land, Stand* p. 7.

New Church Concept **Fear**

There are two kinds of fear. Fear in which good people are is a fear of the spirit and conscience. It is called sacred fear. It is a fear of injuring the Lord, others, or what is good and true in any way. People who do not love what good and true are in external fear. It is a fear of a loss of honor, worldly possessions, reputation, and also of penalties and death. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2826.13, 3718.

Materials Needed for Each Student
a copy of *An Experience in the Spiritual World* p. 8, a copy of *East Wind Pinwheel Directions* p. 9, straw with a bendable end, balloon, new pencil with eraser, straight pin, tape

Prepare in Advance
Purchase supplies you need. Make a sample pinwheel.



East Wind Pinwheel *continued*

1. What do people do in the first seconds of their lives, and stop doing in the last seconds? (breathe) In the story of Creation, the Word says, “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*; and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:27). Without the Lord’s life flowing into us, we would have no life at all.
2. Take a deep breath and hold it for a count of 10. Now hold a hand up in front of your mouth and feel the wind as you let the air out slowly—pacing your breath so that it lasts for a count of 10. (Count as students hold their breath and exhale.)
3. Repeat the activity, but this time let the air out fast, in a count of 3. In what ways did the wind feel the same? In what ways different?
4. The east wind that blew all night and separated the waters of the Red Sea pictures the effect the Lord’s Divine power can have. Angels experience the Lord’s power as gentle and loving—like the first breath you let out. But hellish spirits experience His love as “rough and fierce”—because it opposes their selfish desires (see *Arcana Coelestia* 7679). This is like the second breath you let out.
5. Hand out *An Experience in the Spiritual World* (p. 8). Read and discuss.
 - How did the gangs experience the troop that came to disperse them? As a “gentle” wind or as a “rough and fierce” wind? (Rough—because they loved doing terrible things to others.)
 - Which kinds of people experience the Lord as ‘gentle’ and loving? (People who are in heaven.)
 - Does the Lord love people in heaven and people in hell differently? Does He love angels more? Does He want to punish the evil spirits? (He loves them the same, but they experience His love differently.)
6. Create balloon-powered pinwheels to demonstrate the power of breathe and wind. See *East Wind Pinwheel Directions* (p. 9).

4. Wrap It Up

Closing

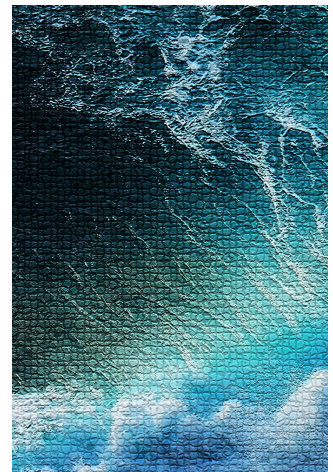
The Lord is always guiding people away from evil and toward good, as far as their freedom will allow. The Lord led the children of Israel away from their slavery in Egypt and toward the promised land. Along the way, the people had to make choices about whether to continue following or not, like whether to cross the Red Sea.

Take the Message Home

Hand out a copy of *Moving Away from Evil* (p. 10) to each student. Read the quotation at the top of the page aloud together. Encourage the students to take the page home and think about it.

New Church Concept East Wind

Separations of the good from the evil in the spiritual world are effected by various degrees of modification and of intensity of the Divine which proceeds from the Lord as the Sun. When this flows in gently, then the good are separated from the evil; and when powerfully, the evil are rejected.... The casting down of evil is described in the Word by strong winds. The wind of Jehovah means the same thing as the spirit of Jehovah, for the wind of respiration is meant, which is also called breath. *Apocalypse Explained* 419



Crossing the Red Sea Readings

Exodus 14:8-17,19-23,26-28,30-31 - **selections**

And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel...all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea....

And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, "Have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

And the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them...."

And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

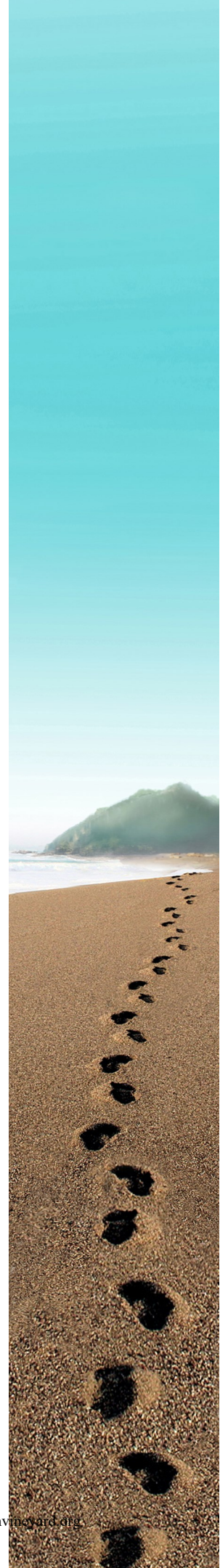
Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

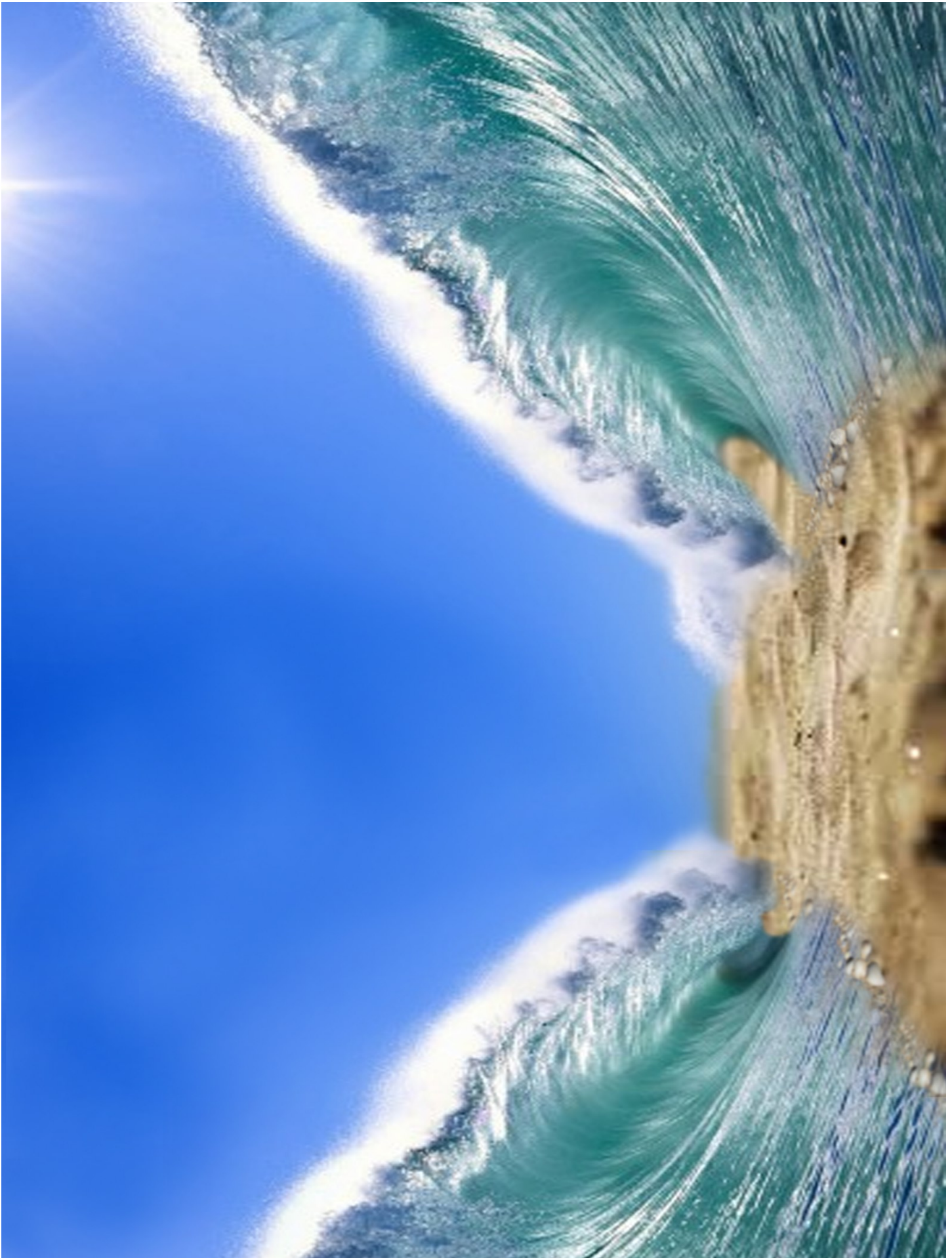
And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen....

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it....

Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained....

So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.





Brand, Stand, Land Scenarios

Thoughts from evil spirits inspire selfish fears that expresses themselves as	Thoughts from good spirits inspire “holy” fears that express themselves as
anger toward others	concern for the happiness of others
sadness for oneself	realization of the needs/wants of others
jealousy of others	fear of not being grateful for what you have
resentfulness of others	fear of not trusting that the Lord will give you what you need
blame (others, the Lord, or “fate”)	protection (others, the Lord)
These thoughts may make you want to	These thoughts may make you want to
steal (take by force or sneakiness)	look for (right) ways to get what you want
murder (kill someone’s reputation, seek re-venge, say mean things)	“let go” of what you thought you wanted (decide what you <i>don’t</i> want or need)
lie (twist the truth)	“stand still”—be patient

Scenarios for Role Playing

1. A valuable object is broken. Two people are discussing what happened.
2. A friend has won an opportunity or award that you were hoping to win.
3. A person sees someone collapse on a busy street.
4. Two people meet as they step out of their vehicles after a car accident.
5. A valuable (phone, wallet, electronic device, etc.) has gone missing. The owner of the missing item is talking to someone about it.
6. Two people want to watch a movie via home computer. One suspects that the only website which has it for free may be illegal.
7. A tall person sits down in front of a short person, blocking the shorter person’s view.
8. Two people are admiring a beautiful object.
9. Someone just said something really stupid.
10. Two friends have tickets for a show. Just before they leave, one feels sick and wants to stay home.
11. A person is talking to a friend after hearing gossip being passed on about him or herself.
12. A person sees someone who is moving slowly, carrying a heavy package.

An Experience in the Spiritual World

The following story is an account of an experience Emanuel Swedenborg had while he was conscious in the spiritual world. Swedenborg kept a log of his experiences. His log book was published after his death as the *Spiritual Diary* or *Spiritual Experiences*.

About the East Wind

Some [evil] spirits who were near me joined themselves into vicious groups that got out of control. One group started to gang up on someone and push him around disrespectfully, trying to harm him. Heavenly spirits and angels nearby could see that the spirits had organized themselves to destroy many people.

After the spirits had ganged up, a large troop of [good] spirits was heard approaching. They made a lot of noise as they came. The noise sounded as if it was coming in waves. When they arrived the gangs were thrown into chaos—some went one way, and some another way. As the gangs broke up the [evil] spirits became distressed. Some were crying. They were afraid that they were all going to perish together and thought that the last judgment had come.

I was not afraid because I had seen things like this before. The sounds of the troop of spirits came to me in waves that came one after another, but another spirit heard it like the sound of horses. Each person heard it differently depending on the degree to which they were frightened.

As this unfolded in front of me I was told that the large troop had been sent to disperse the spirits who had ganged up and made plans to hurt others. The purpose of this troop is to break gangs apart, striking them with fear that they will all perish. As they are split up, all that the spirits in the gangs can think about is getting away, or being afraid that they will be destroyed.

The troop of good spirits told Swedenborg that the gangs of bad spirits were dispersed in a way that is similar to a wind dispersing things. After this, the Lord can bring everything back into its order.

This process is pictured by the east wind that dried up the Red Sea and enabled the children of Israel to cross over on dry land. If gangs of evil spirits are not dispersed, they will attack good people who have just arrived from the world and prevent them from communicating with good spirits and angels. When the gangs are broken up, communication with heaven is restored.

See *Spiritual Experiences* 2121-2177

- How did the gangs of spirits experience the troop that came to disperse them? As a ‘gentle’ wind or as a ‘rough and fierce’ wind?
- Which kinds of people experience the Lord as ‘gentle’ and loving?
- Does the Lord love people in heaven and people in hell differently? Does He love angels more? Does He want to punish the evil spirits?

East Wind Pinwheel Directions



1. You will need a pencil with an eraser, a straw with one end that bends, a balloon, a straight pin, and tape.



2. Tape the balloon to the end of the straw.



3. Use plenty of tape to seal the balloon to the straw with no air leaks. Take care not to crush the straw.



4. Put the pin through the middle of the straw and into the eraser on the pencil.



Bend the end of the straw so that it is parallel to the ground and not up in the air or down toward the ground.

6. Blow into the straw and inflate the balloon. If you are having difficulty inflating it, stretch the balloon and try again.
7. Blow the balloon up until it is large, then hold on to the pencil and let go of the straw. Air coming out of the balloon should drive the straw around on the pencil.
8. If yours is not working well, check to be sure that
 - the straw is not pinned too tightly
 - the straw is not pinned too close to where the balloon is attached
 - the bent end of the straw is parallel to the ground.

Moving Away from Evil

The Lord continually leads every person away from evil, as far as that person's own free choice allows. At the same time, the Lord uses a person's freedom to plant good in the person (see *Divine Providence* 97).

1. What do you think would happen if the Lord stepped in and stopped you from making a bad choice that you wanted to make every time you tried it?
2. Why do you think the Lord cares so much that we get to make our own choices, even if they are the wrong ones?
3. How can the consequences of our bad choices help us?
4. Can you think of a time when something good came out of something bad happening?

