

Lesson 32: SPIRITUAL TREASURE
Matthew 6; *True Christian Religion* 238

Text:

“A Casket of Jewels” by Amena Pendleton; *True Christian Religion* 238; Matthew 6

INTRODUCTION:

I’m going to start today with a short story by Amena Pendleton, a New Church author. It is called “A Casket of Jewels.” As she wrote this story, Miss Pendleton knew about the reality of spiritual jewels, and spiritual treasure, which I will talk about more during today’s project.

READINGS:

Now read “A Casket of Jewels” from the book, *The Golden Heart*, by Amena Pendleton Haines.

In the Word, the Lord talks about treasure. In Matthew 6, He said:

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

DISCUSSION:

When the story is finished, get them started on the project, telling them to work quietly while you talk more about spiritual treasure.

But what does the Lord mean here? The Lord is telling us something important. Earthly treasure, like money and other riches and possessions, can be useful for life here on earth. But if we make earthly treasure the most important thing in our life, we are going to be disappointed. As the Lord said, earthly riches can become old and ruined, lost or maybe stolen. And when our life on earth ends, they won’t matter at all.

The Lord wants us to save up treasures that will last forever -- heavenly treasures. Heavenly treasures are things that we learn from the Word that can make our lives better and happier. If we learn and do the things that the Word teaches, we will have better friendships, better experiences in our work and play, and better lives all around. And these heavenly treasures can never become old and ruined, or lost, or stolen. These heavenly treasures will come with us into the spiritual world when we die.

The true ideas in the Word are like spiritual jewels. One precious jewel is: “We don’t just turn into nothing when we die. We begin a new life in heaven.” Another jewel is: “The Lord loves us constantly no matter what, and is always ready to forgive us when we’ve done wrong.” Knowing these things makes life better, and makes our spirits richer.

NOTE: If teacher wants, he/she could ask the kids to think of other “jewels.”

Some of the spiritual jewels in the Word are easy to recognize. Other are more deeply hidden in the stories, like hidden treasure. We can recognize more and more jewels as we grow. Angels can see many more spiritual jewels than we can, and for that reason heaven has many more colorful, beautiful jewels to look at than earth does.

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The picture you're making today is about something Swedenborg wrote down in the book, *True Christian Religion*:

The stories of the Word are like a treasure chest, where precious stones, pearls, and diadems lie in order. When people read the Word and believe it to be holy, their thoughts are like someone holding a treasure chest in his hand, and throwing it up toward heaven. As it goes up, the chest opens, and the precious things in it are seen by the angels, who are deeply delighted in seeing and examining them.

TREASURE IN THE WORD PROJECT

Supplies:

Poster board, large piece gold paper, small pieces of shiny colored paper, glue, black marker, skin colored crayon.

Ahead of Time:

Trace and cut treasure chest out of gold paper.

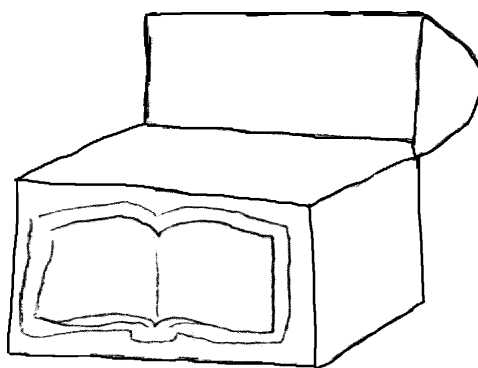
Trace and cut Word cover and pages out of red and white paper.

NOTE: The patterns included in this lesson are small, so that they fit on these pages.

Feel free to enlarge them to a size that fits your poster.

Photocopy quote from TCR 238 and cut it out.

Glue these things onto the poster board approximately like this:



QUOTE

Note: If you have a few Sunday School classes to fill with this project, the above steps could be done in class; however, I think the children will most enjoy the following steps.

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Procedure:

- 1) Read "Spiritual Treasure" lesson.
- 2) Have the children cut from the leftover gold paper and the shiny colored paper shapes to make into precious stones, jewelry, and diadems (crowns). These they will glue onto the poster as if they are coming up out of the treasure chest.
- 3) Trace an outline of one of the children's hands underneath the treasure chest, as if the hand is throwing the chest upward.. Color in the hand.
- 4) Have someone copy the following quote onto the open pages of the Word:

"I rejoice at Your Word
As one who finds great treasure." (*Psalm 119:162*)

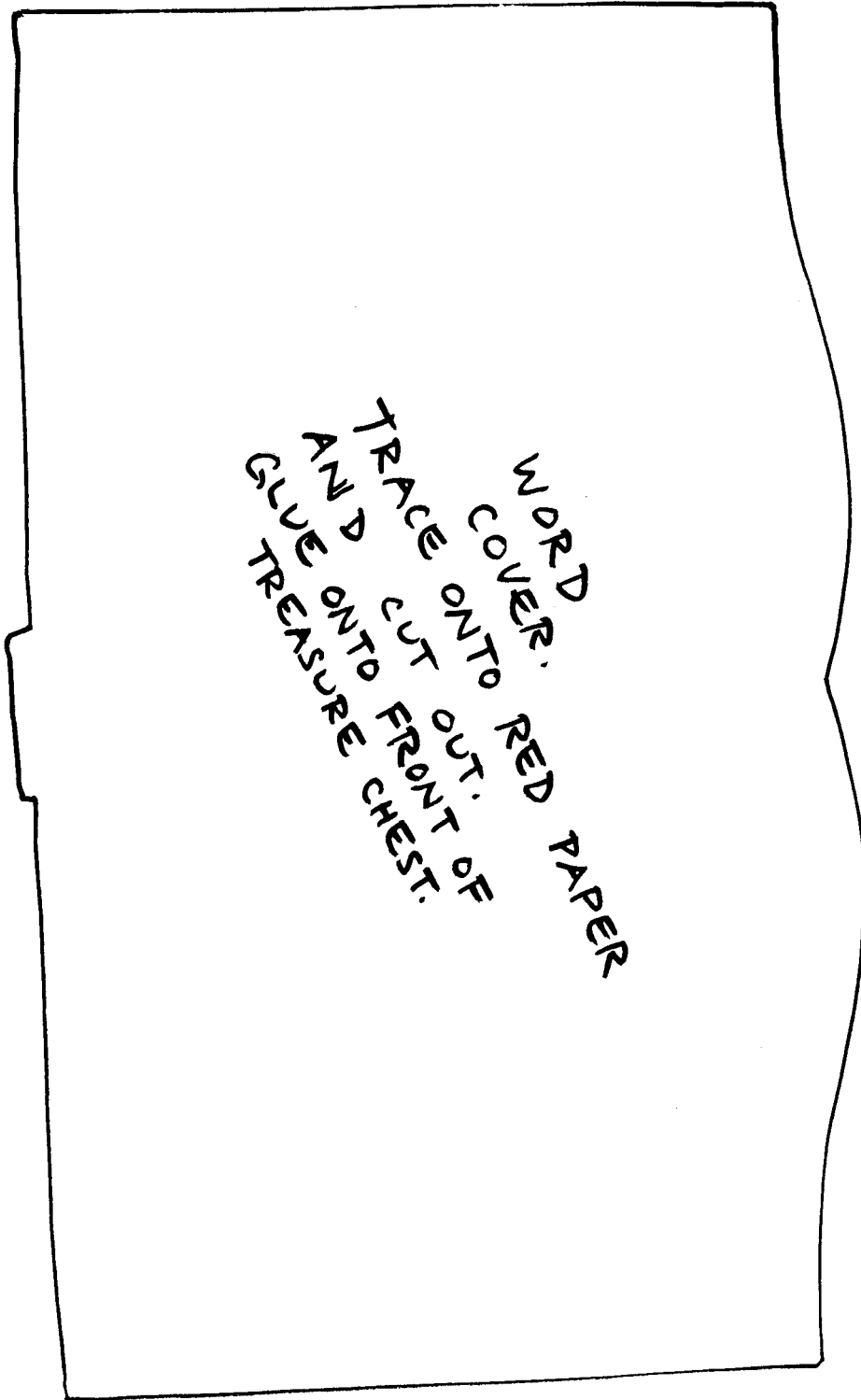
- 5) (Optional): If there is time, someone could write or cut letters for a title at the top of the page: **TREASURE IN THE WORD**

(Photocopy and cut out this quote and then glue onto the poster.)

The Word in the letter is like a treasure chest, where precious stones, pearls, and diadems lie in order. The thoughts of a person's mind, who regard the Word as holy, and who reads it... may be compared to one holding such a chest in his hand, and throwing it up toward heaven. As it goes up, the chest opens. And the precious things in it are disclosed to the angels, who are deeply delighted in seeing and examining them. *True Christian Religion 238*

TRACE ONTO
AND GLUE ONTO
TREASURY
CHEST.
TRACE ONTO GOLD POSTER BOARD.
AND GLUE ONTO POSTER BOARD.
CUT OUT,

LID OF TREASURE
THE TREASURE
CHEST ONTARIO
TRACE GOLD
PAPER



WORD COVER
RED PAPER
TRACE CUT OUT OF
AND GLUE ONTO FRONT OF
TREASURE CHEST.

PAGES OF THE
WORD. WHITE PAPER
TRACE ONTO OUT.
AND CUT OUT RED WORD
GLUE ONTO COVER.