

Picture the Broad and Narrow Ways

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

This is a fun way to contrast the pathways to heaven and to hell.

Suggested Materials:

large piece of paper (such as 11” x 17” or A3 outside of North America)
wax crayons, colored markers, colored pencils or other drawing materials

Procedure:

1. Turn the paper so that it is taller than it is wide.
2. Use the upper 2/3 of the page to show what might be seen on the path to heaven if your spiritual eyes were opened.
3. On the bottom third of the paper, show what might be seen on a path leading to hell if you were able to view it with spiritual eyes.
4. Here are some ideas to help you picture both of these roads:

The Lord allowed people in the world of spirits to see the broad road and the narrow road which are mentioned in the Word. (These were people who had not yet chosen their eternal home.) The broad road led toward hell but it was planted with trees, flowers, and other things that appeared to be delightful. But there were snakes concealed along the pathway. The narrow road looked sad and dreary because they could not see the angel children among beautiful trees and flower gardens.

After seeing both roads, they were asked which road they wished to take, and they all answered, “The broad one.” But all of a sudden their eyes were opened and they saw snakes along the broad road and angels along the narrow one. When their spiritual eyes were open, they wished to take the narrow road but when their sight was closed they wished to take the broad road.

(paraphrased from *Arcana Coelestia* 3477)

5. In addition to these ideas, it would be appropriate to add doves, swans, lambs, and deer to the pathway to heaven and brambles, bats, *etc.* along the pathway to hell.

Variation: Attach flaps to the page so that they can be opened to reveal what is really on the broad and narrow roads. You could make paper flaps (with “hinges” at the side to open horizontally) or cloth flaps (attached at the top so that they can be lifted to see what is behind them).