



How Angels See God

Lesson Overview

1. Visualize

Picture God.

2. Discuss

How do people of different faiths picture God?

3. Read

How Angels See God

4. Discuss

How Angels See God.

New Church Concept God in Human Form

Throughout the heavens one finds no other idea of God than the idea of a person.... It is because God is human that all angels and all spirits are human beings in perfect form. *Divine Love and Wisdom* 11

God in Human Form

The Lord appears in the Sun as a Man, encompassed there with solar fire, from which the angels in the heavens have all their light. *Arcana Coelestia* 10809

FaithBuilder 2 | Lesson 5 | Lord

Visualize

Sit quietly and close your eyes. When everyone is quiet, ask them to visualize the Lord standing right there with them. Give students a minute or two of silence as they try to visualize this. When you are ready, ask students to open their eyes and discuss.

Discuss

1. Could you see the Lord? How did you picture Him?
2. The Writings for the New Church tell us that the Lord is *omnipresent* or present everywhere—in all people, everywhere the world. That means that all people can know and see God if they choose to. Think about the statues and pictures you have seen in churches and temples. How do many Christians picture God? How do people of other religions picture God?
3. Some people imagine that they will meet God after they die. Do you think angels see God? If so, what will He look like?
4. If people have such different ideas about what God looks like while they are living in the world, will everyone see him in the same way after death? Or will He appear differently to people who believe different things?
5. The Writings tell us that how we see God is very important, and they give us an idea of how He appears to the angels.

Read

People of different faiths know the Lord by many names and in many forms. His life has three aspects—His Love, His Wisdom and His Proceeding (Holy Spirit). These aspects are called the Trinity, and together they make one Lord. (The word “trinity” means three similar things that are seen as one group or unit like a *tri*-angle.) Some people think of the different aspects of God as separate beings and so picture more than one God.

When people pass from this world into the spiritual world, the Lord gently leads them to see and understand Him as clearly as they can. The first thing they learn is that God is One.



Newcomers to heaven are taught with utmost care that God is one. *Arcana Coelestia* 3704

The angels love the Lord above everything, and hold Him as the center and source of their lives. They see Him as the Sun of heaven since He is the source of all spiritual life—just as the natural sun is the center of our solar system and the source of natural life. The spiritual Sun gives us a wonderful way to understand how the three aspects of the Trinity make one God. The Lord's love is the heat of the Sun, His truth is its light, and His Holy Spirit is the light and heat radiating out.

The Sun of heaven looks different to the angels in different heavens. In the highest or celestial heaven where the angels love the Lord most it looks very bright, but in the lower heavens it does not appear as brightly. The Writings explain why this happens.

The Sun of heaven is the Lord, the light there is the Divine truth and the heat the Divine good, and those go forth from the Lord as from a Sun. All things which come into existence and appear in the heavens originate from this Sun. *Heaven and Hell* 117

The Lord is seen as a Sun...high above the heavens...before the faces of the angels at a middle height. *Heaven and Hell* 118

Sometimes the Lord makes Himself more directly present with angels by taking on a human form.

The Lord appears to everyone in accord with what state the person is in—glowing when a person is in intense love and less glowing and finally shining white as the person's love subsides. See *Heaven and Hell* 159

To do this, the Lord uses ministering angels and fills them with the Divine while quieting the things which are their own. When the Lord fills their spirits with His spirit, they think they are Jehovah (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1925.3).

Sometimes the Lord presents Himself to be seen out of His sun. He veils Himself and presents Himself through an angel as He did in the world before Abraham, Joshua and others. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 938

It is important to think of the Lord in this Divine human form.

The Lord is seen in a Divine angelic form, which is the human form, by those who acknowledge and believe in a visible Divine Being, but not by those who believe in an invisible Divine. For the former can see their Divine Being, but the latter cannot. *Heaven and Hell* 79

New Church Concept Trinity

That there is in the Lord a trine, the Divine itself that is called the Father, the Divine Human that is called the Son, and the Divine proceeding that is called the Holy Spirit can be seen from...heaven. The Divine called the Father, and the Divine Human called the Son, appear in heaven before the angels as a Sun, and the Divine that proceeds from it appears as light united to heat. The light is Divine truth, and the heat is Divine good. Thus the Divine called the Father is the Divine Being, the Divine Human called the Son is the Divine manifesting from that Being, and the Divine called the Holy Spirit is the Divine proceeding from the Divine manifesting and from the Divine Being. This trine is the Lord in heaven. His Divine love is what appears there as a Sun. *Apocalypse Explained* 1111.2,4

Ministry Angels

In order that the speaking [of the Lord] may come to a person by words of articulate sound and in ultimate nature, the Lord makes use of the ministry of angels, filling them with the Divine, and lulling the things which are their own; so that at the time they do not know but that they themselves are Jehovah. In this way the Divine of Jehovah, which is in the highest things, passes down into the lowest of nature, in which people are in respect to sight and hearing. *Arcana Coelestia* 1925.3

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Why is having a mental picture of God important? (see p. 2, end)
2. What are the consequences of not having a mental picture of God? (see p. 2, end)
3. In what form should we think of God? (human form) (*Hint: the Lord gives us a picture of Himself in this form in the New Testament*)
4. Why do you think the angels see the Lord in the Sun *high above the heavens*? Why is He up so high and not down near them? What might this tell you about the Lord Himself? (He is omniscient, omnipresent, from this vantage point; He is high above us in all ways)
5. The Writings tell us that the Lord sometimes takes the human form of an angel. In what ways do we take on the Lord's form when we do what He asks us in His Word?
6. Think about sunlight. What is the brightest sunlight you remember seeing? Was it in the morning, mid-day, or afternoon?
7. What is the darkest kind of sunlight we have on earth? (light from the moon is sunlight reflected to the earth from the moon; solar eclipses; storm clouds)
8. What kinds of things interfere with us seeing the Lord clearly? (lack of knowledge about the Lord; lack of knowledge of the Word; thinking only of ourselves)
9. How can we improve the amount of light we can receive from heaven? (read the Word and act on what we learn)
10. How can we darken the amount of light we receive from heaven? (avoid the Word; do what pleases us)
11. Which kind of heavenly light appeals to you? Why?