

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 2
The Lord Blesses the Children (Luke 18:15-17)

Theme: The Lord – Our Heavenly Father

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Spiritually, the Lord is our Father and the Church is our mother. (CL 1)
- B. The Lord is the heavenly Father of everyone because all life comes from Him. (DP 330)
- C. The Lord is called Father because He leads us like a father by means of good into truth. (AC 4844:6)
- D. The Lord is present with us by means of His Word. (TCR 225, 780)
- E. The Lord and His angels are constantly caring for us and leading us toward heaven.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Let's talk about Someone who loves you very much.
 - a. He wants you to be happy.
 - b. He is good, and He is wise.
 - c. He made heaven and earth, people and animals, plants and rocks.
 - d. (He made you!)
 - e. Who is He? (The Lord!)
 - 2. The Lord takes very special care of you.
 - a. He helps you want to be good.
 - b. He keeps you safe from evil.
 - c. He sends two angels to help you all day, every day.
 - d. He gave you a mother and a father to help Him take care of you.
 - e. He wants you to be happy.
 - f. He wants you to go to heaven so that you can be happy forever.
 - 3. Sometimes we call the Lord different names like King, Savior, Shepherd or Prince of Peace. When we say the Lord's Prayer, what name do we call Him? (Our Father who art in heaven.) One of our names for the Lord is "Father in heaven." The Lord is a Father to all of us!

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B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Tell about the incident recounted in Luke:

The Word tells us that when the Lord was here on earth, the disciples tried to keep young children away from Him. People came to the Lord to listen to Him teaching how to be good. Often the Lord healed sick people, too. One time people brought young children to Him so that He could touch them. The disciples tried to send them away. (Perhaps they thought the Lord was too busy to see children.) But Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God."

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. The Lord loves children, doesn't He? He loves you! He is never too busy to help you with your problems.
2. Did you know that you could talk to the Lord? When you say the Lord's prayer, you are talking to the Lord. But you can talk to the Lord another way. Think about the Lord and then talk to Him. Tell Him how you are feeling. (Are you happy or sad?) If you are sorry you did something wrong, tell the Lord. Ask Him to help you do good things. Think about some things you want to thank the Lord for, and tell Him, "Thank you."
Optional: Let's each thank the Lord for something. (Invite each child to thank the Lord for something.)
3. The Lord can talk to us, too. (Show the children the Word.) There are many wonderful stories written down in the Lord's Word. When you hear these stories, the Lord tells you about Himself, about heaven, and how to be good. The Word is a special gift to us from the Lord!
4. Close your eyes for a minute and think about the Lord so that you can see Him inside your head. Now open your eyes, and we'll look at some paintings of the Lord.
 - a. Everyone pictures the Lord a little differently. See how these artists pictured Him?
 - b. We can't really see the Lord until we go to heaven. Angels see the Lord in the heavenly sun. Sometimes they see Him walking around.
 - c. What do you think the Lord looks like? Which of these pictures do you like?

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Father in Heaven," *Hymnal* #152
2. "When I'm Happy I Like to Sing," *First Songs for Little Children*, p. 2
3. "All That the Lord Has Spoken," *Hymnal* #245

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B. Activities

1. Have children take turns telling the Lord what they are thankful for.
2. Look at different artists' paintings of the Lord. Talk with the children about which pictures they like.

C. Project - A Picture of the Lord

1. Give children white construction paper on which to draw the Lord. Use crayons or oil pastels.
 - a. Make a handsome, kind face for the Lord. Do you think He should be sad or happy?
 - b. Make beautiful clothes for the Lord.
2. Teacher cuts out the pictures of the Lord. Give children bright blue paper to mount their pictures on.
3. Make a title, "Father in Heaven," on a white strip of paper for the children to glue at the top of their pictures.
4. Use white crayons or oil pastels to make the light shining from the Lord (or use glitter). Talk about how the Lord shines with bright light. (Remember the angels that appeared to the shepherds with bright light shining around them? The Lord would hurt our eyes with His bright light!)

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the Lord done by various artists.
- B. Picture of the Lord in the sun. (There is one in *Life is Forever* by Peter Buss.)
- C. Picture of the angels appearing to the shepherds to show at project time?

V. Further Reading for the Teacher