

**GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM**  
**Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 12**  
**Roads to Heaven and to Hell**

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. There is no death, for life is eternal.
- B. A person's ruling love becomes apparent in the world of spirits.
- C. Each person becomes an image of his ruling love. It is reflected in his face, body, and speech. (HH 481:2)
- D. A person's ruling love guides him along a road that leads to his home in heaven or in hell.
- E. The Lord prepares a home for each angelic couple, which they recognize to be their own.
- F. The angels rejoice when a new angel family joins their society.
- G. The new angels will feel that they have known the other angels in their society all their lives and that they are the best of friends because their loves are so similar.
- H. Everyone who comes into heaven comes into the greatest joy of his heart. (DP 254)

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

1. After people die most get ready for heaven or hell while they are in the world of spirits. They follow roads— paths— in the world of spirits that help them to get ready. Of course, no one makes a person choose a particular road. Rather, he chooses the roads himself because of what he loves.
2. Sometimes a person walks on a road with friends, and sometimes he goes by himself.
3. When a person is finally ready, a road will lead him either to heaven or to hell, and he will find his home waiting for him there.
4. We're going to read 2 stories today, one about someone who follows roads to hell, and one about roads to heaven and who followed those.

B. Tell/Read the Story

1. Read "Julian's Home in Hell" (see attached) and discuss.
2. Read "A Heavenly Home" (see attached) and discuss.

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Did Julian like to work? (No) Then why did he? (So he could get food) Everyone in the spiritual world, both in heaven and in hell, has to do some job to earn food and clothing.
2. What did Julian think was enough to get someone to heaven? (Saying he believed in God/the Lord) Is that how you get to heaven? (No; you have to live a good life/love the Lord/obey His commandments/love your neighbor)
3. What happened to Julian when he visited heaven? (Hard for him to breathe; could hardly see)
4. Did anyone force Julian to go to hell? (No; he chose to go there on his own)
5. What were Julian's new home and life like? (Dark cave; he had to work; could then eat, visit with friends, sleep)
6. Where did Margaret meet Paul and spend some time with him before they were ready to go to heaven? (At a school where angels taught them what they needed to know before they went to heaven)
7. How did they find their home in heaven? (They followed paths to different places and searched until they found the home they knew the Lord had gotten ready for them.)
8. How did they and the other angels feel about their joining that heavenly society? (The other angels rejoiced to have a new angel couple there; all of them felt like they had always known each other and were the best of friends.)
9. Why did Paul and Margaret feel like the angels in their society were their best friends? (Because they all thought about and loved the Lord and their neighbor in ways very like one another)

D. Further Ideas

1. Only the Lord knows which roads will take you to your home in the spiritual world. There are doors from the world of spirits into heaven, and from each door is a road that climbs upward into heaven. There are doors to hell, and each door opens into a dark cave leading down into hell. But no one sees these doors and roads unless he is ready to leave the world of spirits. Then his love leads him on roads and through doors to the place he has chosen to make his spiritual home forever.

2. The Lord doesn't make anyone go to heaven or to hell. A person chooses his spiritual home by the kind of life he lives on earth. If he does good things because he loves the Lord and his neighbor, then he will choose heaven. If he loves himself the most and wishes harm to others, then he will choose hell. The Lord knows what people will choose, and He shows them roads in the spiritual world: first roads that will get them ready and then roads that will take them to the kind of home they've chosen by how they lived on earth.
3. There are many societies in heaven. A society is where angels that have a lot in common live together. Perhaps they all love to take care of little children. Maybe they are strong angels who control the evil spirits. Or perhaps they help people on earth. Each society is different from any other. Each society becomes more perfect and better able to do its job when new angels join it because every person has something a little different to contribute to the heavenly life there. (There are also many different societies in hell, but we will talk more about hell another time.)

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "You Shall Love the Lord Your God With All Your Heart and Mind," FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, p. 7.
2. "Angel Song," by Lori Soneson (Odhner).
  - a. See attached sheet music.
  - b. You can listen to the song on LORI'S SONGS II, Side 2, near the end of the tape.

#### B. Activities

#### C. Project (Choose one)

1. Have children illustrate a scene from either one of the stories. Guide them in their choice of dull, lifeless, ugly colors if they choose to illustrate something from "Julian's Home in Hell"; or help them to choose colors that will reflect the beauty of heaven if they draw a scene from "A Heavenly Home."
2. Have children draw roads leading upward from the world of spirits to heaven (pretty colors and scenery) and roads leading downward to hell (darker colors and uglier scenery). If there is time, they could make a clothes pin doll who will then follow one set of roads or the other so the children can enact either of the stories from the lesson.
3. If time is short, children could simply color a line drawing from LIFE IS FOREVER by Peter Buss (#6: A Path to Their Home in Heaven and #7: A Visitor Who Should Not Have Entered Heaven).

4. If there is enough time, the above pictures could be trimmed down and mounted on a large piece of paper; the children could add roads leading from the world of spirits to heaven and to hell.

#### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations from the book, LIFE IS FOREVER, #6 and #7.

#### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *Heaven and Hell* 534
- B. *Life Is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapters 6 and 7.
- C. *Divine Providence* 338:4, 254
- D. *Apocalypse Revealed* 153, 611
- E. *The Spiritual World* by Hugo Odhner, pp. 140-146.

## JULIAN'S HOME IN HELL

Julian wasn't worried. He knew he would go to heaven. The angels told him that he had to stay in the world of spirits for a while, but he expected to move on to heaven very soon.

Julian was sure that he would be a great man with many servants when he got to heaven. But here in the world of spirits he had to work. If he didn't work, he didn't get any food, and hunger gnawed at him terribly. So Julian did his job every day.

What Julian liked most was getting together with his friends after work. They sat around complaining about work and talking about how grand life in heaven would be for men like themselves. They were sure they would go to heaven because they said they believed in God. They didn't think it mattered what people did. They agreed that saying you believed in God was all it took to get into heaven.

One day a man came to talk with Julian and his friends. He said, "It isn't enough just to believe in the Lord. You must also do good things for each other because you love the Lord and other people. Then you can live in heaven." Oh, how they laughed at him! The man left them alone after that, and he never came back.

As the weeks passed, Julian became more and more impatient. One day he said to himself, "Haven't I been in the world of spirits long enough?"

Just then, a man walked up to him and said, "Julian, would you like to visit heaven? You could come with me right now if you'd like."

Of course he wanted to go! He was just wasting his time in the world of spirits. Julian answered, "Yes, I want to see my place in heaven. Let's get going!"

Now, the man was really an angel, but Julian didn't know it. The angel led the way into heaven, and Julian followed, walking quickly. At last he was going to heaven! But as Julian climbed higher, strange things began to happen. He found it harder and harder to breathe. The farther he went, the worse it got. And his eyes! "What is going on?" he gasped. "I can hardly see!" Julian could not stand being miserable any longer. He threw himself down from heaven into the world of spirits.

As he lay on the ground waiting for his strength to return, Julian thought angrily, "If that's what heaven is like, how can anyone stand to live there? I could hardly breathe! And what good is it living in heaven if you can't see a thing? It sure isn't the place for me!"

After this terrible experience, Julian wandered from place to place looking for a paradise where he wouldn't have to do any work. For he truly hated to work! But each place was the same— no work, no food.

Finally, Julian came to a horrible desert where nothing but weeds could grow. He walked to the closest house and knocked at the door. "Go away!" someone shouted.

But Julian didn't go away. He smelled food, and he was hungry. He banged on the door until it was opened to him. "I want food," Julian said to the ugly man standing in the doorway.

The man laughed and called to his friends, "He's one of us!" Then they gave Julian a bit of food. They showed him a hut where he could live and told him where he could find work. So Julian settled there for a while. But he hated his work as much as before. He

tried to make someone do his job for him, but no one would. So he worked, and after work each day he met with his new friends to complain with them about life.

One night Julian's friends invited him to sneak into heaven with them. Life would be better there! Julian told them what had happened to him in heaven. "I couldn't breathe or see when I was in heaven. It was terrible!" But they didn't believe him. They assured him that his experience in heaven had been only a nightmare, and they insisted on going. But just the thought of his visit to heaven made Julian tremble. He knew it had really happened. So he decided it was time to move on.

The next day Julian headed out of town, taking a different road. He trudged along, and the road began to slope downward. There were rocks everywhere, and smoke curled up from the cracks between them. When Julian was tired of walking, he noticed an open door just ahead. Slowly, he climbed over the rocks to the door. "I will rest here and find some food," thought Julian. He went in the door and entered a large, dark cave.

"Where's some food?" he asked a man by the door. The man pointed toward the back of the cave. "I've come a long way, and I want a place to sleep." The man nodded and then shut the door behind Julian.

A tall man came to where Julian stood. "My name is Sam," he said. "I'm in charge here, and you will have to follow the rules." Julian didn't like rules, but he listened as Sam explained that he had to work if he wanted food or clothing. "I'll give you a job, and you'd better do it if you want to eat again!"

"No!" shouted Julian. "I want to find a home where I can eat and have fun without doing any work."

"Forget it!" said Sam. "There is no such place." Julian looked for the door, but he couldn't see it. He tried to find another way out of the cave, but it was impossible. "You're never going to leave this place, buddy," said Sam with an unpleasant smile. "This is home from now on!" Julian gave up trying to leave the cave, for there was something about Sam that frightened him. He was stunned at the way things had turned out, and he sat in a dark corner sulking.

"Hey, Julian!" He looked up to see an old friend standing in front of him. "It's not so bad here. Work is terrible, that's for sure, but after work we have great fun. Come with me!" Julian felt more cheerful, and he followed his friend deep into the cave.

There were men playing cards in a smoky corner. He could hear women laughing somewhere. There was music, too, clanging metal, pounding drums, and howling voices. His friend showed him a table of food and mattresses on the floor for sleeping.

Julian grinned. "I could get to like this place," he told his friend. Unfortunately, Julian did grow to like this place, and he made his home in hell forever.

(Adapted from *Apocalypse Revealed* 153 and 611)

## A HEAVENLY HOME

Marie walked down the road. She was tired of walking, and she looked around her for a place to rest. "I will never reach heaven!" she thought. "How long have I been in the world of spirits now?" But when she followed a bend in the road, she saw the sun filtering through the trees and clumps of flowers sparkling in the woods. "What a lovely place!" Marie exclaimed. The sight cheered her, and she walked more quickly now. She was eager to see where this road led.

Soon she came to a garden filled with olive and fig trees, laurels, and palms. People walked among the trees, talking together. A beautiful angel came up to Marie. "Hello, my name is Dora. You have come to a school where angels prepare people for heaven. Would you like to join us?"

"Yes, I would," Marie said, and she followed Dora into the garden. Dora showed her around and talked with her about the Lord and heaven.

Then Dora told Marie, "This school is very close to heaven. People stay here only a short time before the Lord leads them to their heavenly homes."

Marie was filled with joy. "How wonderful it is that I will be ready for heaven soon!"

The next day Marie came to the garden eager to learn more. She heard someone call her name. "Marie! Have you come at last?" She turned and saw a handsome man standing nearby. The curly hair, the dark eyes, the warm smile – all looked familiar. It was her husband, Alan! Marie ran to greet him, and the husband and wife hugged and kissed happily. They had been parted for two years, and they had much to talk about. All that morning they walked hand in hand through the garden, talking.

At midday the teachers and students sat down to a delicious banquet together. Everyone congratulated Alan and Marie on their reunion. They sang a toast to the Church and to the happy couple. Then there were speeches by some of the students. That afternoon the students saw plays showing the things they were learning about in the school for heaven.

After several days at the school, Alan and Marie went to a discussion about marriage. They met with many other couples in a garden filled with olive trees and jeweled flowers. To one side was a lake with pairs of swans swimming on the clear blue water. Soon two angels appeared, one clothed in purple and the other in scarlet. They told the couples about the special marriage love called conjugal love. At the end of the discussion Marie saw a wreath of flowers on Alan's head, and then she felt one on her own head. Some of the other couples wore flower wreaths in their hair also.

Someone pointed to the wreaths and asked, "Why is this?"

The angels answered, "Because they have understood more completely." Then the angels left.

Alan and Marie stayed at the school for another week before they were ready to enter heaven. Then one morning Marie saw a magnificent palace. The walls were of crystal, clear and brilliant. The roof was transparent jasper. And the foundation was made of precious stones, flashing in the sunlight. Marie brought Alan to see the palace,

too. "Why didn't we see this palace before?" Alan wondered aloud.

Then Dora came to them and explained the wonderful sight. "This is the Temple of Wisdom," she said. "People can't see it if they consider themselves wise, for it is invisible to people who think their wisdom comes from themselves rather than from the Lord. It is seen only by those who realize that their knowledge and wisdom are but a drop in the ocean compared to that of the Lord."

Dora led them into the Temple of Wisdom. They walked up the gleaming white alabaster steps and past the statues of lions with their cubs that stood on either side of the steps. Entering the temple, they were amazed by the beautiful light that shone inside. Alan and Marie felt very close to the Lord in that place, and they thanked Him for letting them see it.

The next day Alan and Marie found shining white angel clothes in their room. This was a sign that they were ready to enter heaven, and they were both very happy! They put on the new clothes and said goodbye to everyone at the school. Then they followed a path which led up toward heaven. They stopped at a gate, and an angel guard opened it for them. Then the path began to wind through laurel trees and vines.

Alan saw a way through the laurels, and he led Marie along it to a community in heaven. Several angels greeted them. One said, "We're glad you've come! Please look to see if the Lord has a home for you here." Alan and Marie walked through the community, but they didn't find their home. Before they had time to feel sad, the Lord led them to another community in heaven.

"This is a wonderful place," Marie said.

"I'd like to stay here forever," replied Alan.

They saw angels coming to meet them. The angels smiled so kindly that Alan and Marie felt quite welcome. One of the angels said cheerily, "So, you've just arrived in our community. Come! Look for your home. We hope you will find it here."

"Thank you!" the couple replied together. Alan smiled as Marie added, "My husband was just saying that he would like to stay here forever. I think we may find our home here." The angels wished them well in their search, and Alan and Marie walked on.

After a while they spotted a house standing empty. Marie drew in her breath and exclaimed, "Alan! This house is perfect!" He looked at her, confident and happy. They both knew that this was their home in heaven, prepared for them by the Lord.

It was a charming house made of white stone. They found a living room, a dining room, a bedroom, and every other kind of room they could want. In the middle was an open courtyard with a fountain and a rose garden. Large windows filled the house with light. And every room was furnished beautifully.

(Adapted from *Apocalypse Revealed* 611 and *Divine Providence* 338:4)