

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 2, Lesson 10
The World of Spirits

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. There is no death for life is eternal.
- B. The world of spirits is where people stay for a while before they go to heaven or hell.
- C. Newcomers are able to meet anyone they want to meet. They may visit with friends and relatives and also people they have admired or revered, if the Lord allows it. (AC 1114)
- D. In the first stage of man's stay in the world of spirits, he is very much like he was in the world. This first stage may last a few days, a few months, or a year. (HH 493, 498)

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Do you remember the names of the 3 parts of the spiritual world?
 - a. Heaven - a wonderful place where good people go to live
 - b. Hell - an awful place where evil people go to live
 - c. World of spirits - where people stay for a while before they go to heaven or hell
 - 2. Today we are going to talk about the world of spirits. What does it look like? What do people do there? How does life in the world of spirits get people ready for their future home in heaven or hell? Let's find out.
- B. Ideas for Presentation and Discussion
 - 1. What the World of Spirits Looks Like
 - a. Presentation
 - When people first come to the world of spirits, they are surprised that it looks so much like our world. We are told that it looks like a valley among mountains and cliffs. And the light there is very bright— much brighter than our sunny days! Almost everything you might find on earth you could find in the world of spirits.

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b. Discussion

- Can you name some of the things we would find in the world of spirits? (Plants, animals, churches, libraries, cities, farms, villages, rivers, swamps, lakes, deserts) [Unpleasant things, like swamps and deserts, would be closer to hell.]

2. What People Do in the World of Spirits

a. Presentation

- Life in the world of spirits seems very much like it was on earth. People find a place to live where they feel at home, perhaps on a farm or in a city. They find some work to do that is like the work they did on earth. And they meet friends and family and make many new friends so they aren't lonely. The angels do everything they can to help newcomers get settled. The Lord gives them food, clothing, and everything else they need.

b. Discussion

- Where would you want to live in the world of spirits? A farm, a village, a city?
- What kind of work would you want to do?

3. Meeting Family and Friends

a. Presentation

- The Lord will let you meet almost anyone you want in the other world. You would probably want to meet family members, such as your husband or wife, your parents, or your children. And you would see friends in the spiritual world. Your family and friends might talk with you, tell you about the spiritual world, and take you to various places to help you learn about the other world.
- But did you know that you would be able to meet people you learned about in the Word, such as Abraham or Moses? And you could meet famous people such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
- If you really want to meet someone, and if the Lord sees that some good will come of it, He will allow you to meet that person. And you don't have to travel to visit someone. In the spiritual world, if you think of someone and want to see him, he will be there!

b. Discussion

- Do you have a relative or a friend in the other world that you would like to see when you get there?
- Are there any famous people you would like to meet?

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4. Why People Go to the World of Spirits

a. Presentation

- Most people stay in the world of spirits for a while before they go to heaven or hell. They need time to get used to living in the spiritual world. They need to decide whether they are going to heaven or hell. And then they need to get ready to go live there.
- Bad people will choose to go to hell. But before they can live there, they have to learn the rules they must live by. For instance, if a man likes to hurt other people, he will be punished until he learns not to hurt others.
- Good people will choose to go to heaven. But they usually need to learn some more things about the Lord, marriage, or how to live a good life. And they will have to get rid of bad habits, such as talking about themselves too much, interrupting people a lot, getting angry, or, perhaps, using bad language.
- Some people go straight to hell because they show their badness right away, and the Lord doesn't want them to hurt the other people. And some people go straight to heaven because they tried to follow the Lord all their lives. Here are two short stories from the Writings about people who went to heaven right away.

One man came to the world of spirits without his home, clothes, and the other things he had left behind in this world. He was worried about finding a new home, clothes, food, and the other things he would need. Where would he go? How would he live? But the angels told him that the Lord provides everything we need in the spiritual world. And sure enough, he was given everything he needed! The man was very grateful to the Lord, and he wondered, "How could I ever repay the Lord?" It was obvious that he loved the Lord, and he was taken up into heaven right away. (AC 318)

Another time an angel was talking to a good man who had been a minister in this world. The man said that he had always believed what the Word teaches, and he had lived his life following those teachings. The angel knew he was telling the truth, so he looked into the man's eyes and said, "My friend, come with me, and live with us."

b. Discussion

- Wouldn't it be wonderful to be ready to go to heaven when you arrive in the world of spirits! How can you get ready for heaven while you are living in this world? (Try very hard to do what the Word tells you, and the Lord will make you ready for heaven.)

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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). (Sheet music attached; you can listen to it on LORI'S SONGS II, Side 2, near the end of the tape.)

B. Activities

1. Show children pictures from magazines, and discuss whether those things would be found in the world of spirits. If it is something unpleasant, remind them that it would be close to hell. The nicest things would be found closer to heaven.

C. Project

1. Using either white drawing paper or yellow construction paper (to show the brightness in the world of spirits), have children draw with markers, oil pastels, or paint a picture of themselves meeting someone in the world of spirits that they would want to see— a relative who died before them, or a person from the Word or from history. If there is time, children could put in more background/detail (buildings, scenery, and so on, based upon what they heard in today's lesson).

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustration from the book, LIFE IS FOREVER, by Peter Buss, no. 4.
- B. Pictures from magazines: Desert, swamp, beautiful valley with mountains in background, animals (some like sheep, horses, etc. as well as some like buzzards, lizards, snakes, and so on), a farm, a village, a city, a rural scene, and so forth. Use for "Activities" above.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *Heaven and Hell*, nos. 428, 429, 491-498.
- B. *The Spiritual World* by Hugo Odhner, pp. 96-100, 111-114.
- C. *Life is Forever* by Peter Buss, Chapters 3 and 4.