General Church Education



The Second Day

Genesis 1:6-8

Lesson 2

Youth Journey Program

Creation: Reflection of God

Level C: For ages 11-14 years

Teacher Background Creation: Reflecting God through Correspondences A Key for Understanding the Word

There is a New Church teaching that, "The Word of God is like a body with a living soul" (*Arcana Coelestia* 1408). Many readers have sensed this deeper level of meaning within the words and images of the Bible.

God wrote His Word so that every image contains multiple levels of meaning. The literal meaning focuses on the natural, physical world. A deeper symbolic meaning focuses on the world of the spirit, the world of the human mind. The relationship between the two levels is called "correspondence". Natural images and symbols "correspond" to spiritual qualities.

We often make this connection between levels without thinking about it. For example, we may talk about not "muddying the waters", or say that a child is "testing the waters". When we say "not muddying the waters" we are not talking about water at all; we are saying that false or misleading ideas should not be brought into a situation. Similarly, a child "testing the waters" is experimenting with his or her behavior to see how others react. These sayings make connections between the way true ideas work in our minds with the way water works in the natural world.

Jesus made connections like this in His conversations with people. To a woman at Jacob's well, He said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). Jesus was associating the true spiritual ideas He came on earth to teach with water. The connection is in how they are useful—how they work in our lives. True ideas from the Word cleanse our thoughts just as water cleanses our bodies.

Sometimes these connections are harder to see in the stories of the Old Testament. The key, according to the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church, is this concept of correspondences. Correspondences allow us to see more than the general allegory of the human journey to the "promised land" of heaven. They help us see who God is and what He intends for us in specific ways. A knowledge of correspondences can help us gain fresh insight into the stories of the Old Testament.

This is true for the creation story. The Heavenly Doctrine explains creation in terms of a person's step-by-step spiritual progress along the path to heaven. Each "day" of creation pictures a new level of personal development. The seventh day is a beautiful picture of the restful state of heaven—a state free from the struggles against selfishness that we all deal with in this world.

The spiritual meanings of the days of creation are interwoven throughout this lesson. We hope they bring this familiar story to life in new ways.

Correspondences are natural truths in which spiritual truths are reflected as in a mirror. *Arcana Coelestia* 9300



The Second Day

Level C

Genesis 1:6-8

Ages 11-14

Life Focus: The Word and the created world reflect the Lord, the Creator.

Lesson Focus: We are connected with heaven when we do what the Word teaches.

Reading: Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters, from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters that were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day (Genesis 1:6-8).

Less	son 2	Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Getting Started (2-3 minutes)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Water Word Play directions p. 4	
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word Talk About It discuss the reading	see <i>Reading</i> above Talk About It discussion guide p. 4	
	discuss the retaining		
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Interactive Activity/ Service Project brainstorm ways to make true ideas into life choices; optional: choose a service project to act on	Spiritual Water Cycle directions p. 5 Spiritual Water Cycle pp. 7-12	stiff paper for printing, scissors, tape, pencils or pens optional: supplies for a service project
	Make create a water cycle globe; shake the globe and think of a useful act of service to do as the glitter falls	Sparkling Water Globe directions pp. 5-6 Sparkling Water Globe p. 13	small plastic bottle with cap for each student (small water bottles work well), stiff paper for printing, water, glitter, scissors, tape, duct tape
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Take the Message Home introduce quotation for the week	Take Home Cards p. 14	



Welcome

Water Word Play

Warm-up **Activity**

Have you ever been excited about something, and then had a parent or teacher "throw cold water" on your idea? What does this expression mean? (to discourage someone from doing something) Water is used in many familiar phrases—e.g. "muddy the water", "test the water", being "in deep water", "keeping your head above water". What does the word "water" refer to? (true ideas—often practical facts)

2. Focus on the Word

Read

Genesis 1:6-8

Talk About It What does the word "Genesis" mean? Beginning.

Genesis tell us that the world was created in seven days. How is this true? The Word is written in parables. Science confirms that creation did not happen in seven days. The Heavenly Doctrine explains that the days correspond to the stages of spiritual development a person goes through to become an angel in heaven.

In the beginning the world was dark and without form. Then God created light and separated it from the darkness. What light is this talking about? True ideas from the Word that light up the path to heaven and help us see how to wisely take care of ourselves and others.

Next, God divided the waters under the expanse (or sky) from the waters above the expanse. What kinds of water are "above the expanse"? Clouds, rain, snow.

What kinds of water are "under the expanse"? Streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, seas, oceans.

What are some of the ways in which you have used water today? Washing, cooking, drinking, etc.

We cannot live without water. Our bodies are mostly made up of water. People have lived for up to a month without food, but they seldom live for a week without water. Our need for water corresponds to our spiritual need for true ideas. True ideas from the Word are as important for our minds as water is for our bodies. Without true ideas we would not know right and wrong—and without this we cannot know the path to heaven.

The many sources of water picture different ways true ideas come to us. What are some of the ways we can learn true ideas in addition to those we get directly from the Lord in His Word? From parents, teachers, church, friends, good books, experience.

We learn true ideas about the world around us from personal experience and from scientific discoveries—e.g. gravity. True ideas about the natural world correspond to the waters below. We are connected with heaven when we have the Word in our minds and use our practical knowledge and skills to take action and serve the Lord and our neighbor.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities



Choice Spiritual Water Cycle

Fresh water falls as rain or snow, soaks into the earth, trickles into rivers and then flows into oceans. As the sun warms the water in the ground, ponds, rivers and oceans, the water evaporates and rises, gathering again as clouds in the sky. Our minds experience a similar spiritual "water cycle". True spiritual ideas descend into our minds when we understand the Lord's Word. If they fall into "good ground" (a love for doing what the Lord wants), we serve the Lord and others by taking useful action. Our good actions join (or conjoin) us with the Lord. Explore the spiritual water cycle by looking for ways to turn true ideas into loving actions.

- 1. What is the water cycle? (encourage students to share what they know) The "waters above" in the creation story correspond to true ideas from the Lord's Word. Let's look at an example. Choose a raindrop with a quote from the Word and ask one of the students to read it aloud and then add it to the chart.
- 2. How could you respond to this statement? What action does it call you to do? Invite a variety of oral responses, and then invite students to write their own responses on blank raindrops. Response examples: I will fix the lamp I broke; I will apologize to my friend for being rude; I will include someone who feels left out; I will bake cookies for a friend who is struggling; I will stop gossiping; I will "turn the other cheek".
- 3. What practical knowledge or skills do you need to take the action you wrote down? Natural knowledge corresponds to the waters below. We cannot serve others or the Lord without knowing how to take the steps necessary for doing this, e.g. cooking, making a card, doing an errand or calling someone on the phone.
- 4. Invite students to add their raindrops to the water cycle chart as droplets rising back to the clouds, showing that we are joined with the Lord through these acts.
- 5. Repeat these steps using other quotations if desired.
- 6. *Optional*: Set up a service opportunity—either to do within the class (e.g. making care cards, refreshments for the congregation or a skit for another group) or for the future (e.g. organizing a work party).

Materials Needed

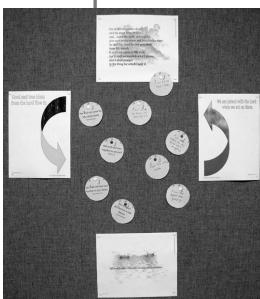
Arrows pp.7-8, Waters Above p. 9, Waters Below p. 10, Response Raindrops p. 11 (1 page per student), Raindrops of Truth p. 12, scissors, pencils or pens

Prepare in Advance

Cut out the *Raindrops of Truth* and the *Response Raindrops*. Set up the water cycle chart by taping the four large pieces of paper to a door, wall or window, arranged as shown in the photo below.

Optional

Plan a service opportunity for the group that may be done right away e.g. making care cards, refreshments for the congregation or a skit for another group OR brainstorm future service projects.





Choice > Sparkling Water Globe

Create a water cycle globe as a visual reminder of how we receive true ideas from the Lord and return them to Him through loving actions.

- 1. What is the water cycle? (encourage sharing of ideas)
- 2. Water corresponds to true ideas from the Word. Just as water falls as

Materials for Each Student

Water Cycle Globe p. 13 printed on stiff paper (1 rectangular base and 1 circular top), small water bottle, water, blue or silver glitter, duct tape, scissors, tape.



rain (waters above) to clean and water the earth, the Lord's Word offers true ideas that come from "above" (heaven) to cleanse and refresh our minds.

- 3. The "waters below" are true ideas we take in from the world around us. They are information we learn from our own experiences, or from science or nature.
- 4. Practical skills and worldly knowledge allow us to bring true ideas to life, e.g. we can show love for others by making cookies or washing dishes for them. When we combine the true ideas we know from the Word with practical knowledge, we can return the Lord's love to Him by serving others. These actions enable us to be *joined* with the Lord.
- 5. What could you do to bring the idea of "loving your neighbor as yourself" to life? (allow discussion)
- 6. We will be making Sparkling Water Globes to help keep in mind how true ideas from the Lord can become fruitful in our minds.
- 7. Give each student a water bottle. Peel off the label and fill the bottle with water. Add blue or silver glitter. Screw the lid on tightly and tape the lid firmly with duct tape.
- 8. Cut out the *Sparkling Water Globe* base and lid on p. 13. Each student needs one base and one lid. Bend the base into a circle to support the bottle. Turn the water bottle upside-down, and place within the base, so the lid rests on the table. Staple the base into a circle that allows the bottle to rest upright inside it.
- 9. Tape the circular lid to the "top" (formerly the base) of the bottle.
- 10. Follow the directions printed on the top! Keep the Sparkling Water Globe where you will see it. Shake the globe when you pass it and think of an act of service you can do for another person.

Prepare in AdvancePrint *Sparkling Water Globe*(p. 13) on stiff paper.





4. Wrap It Up

Closing

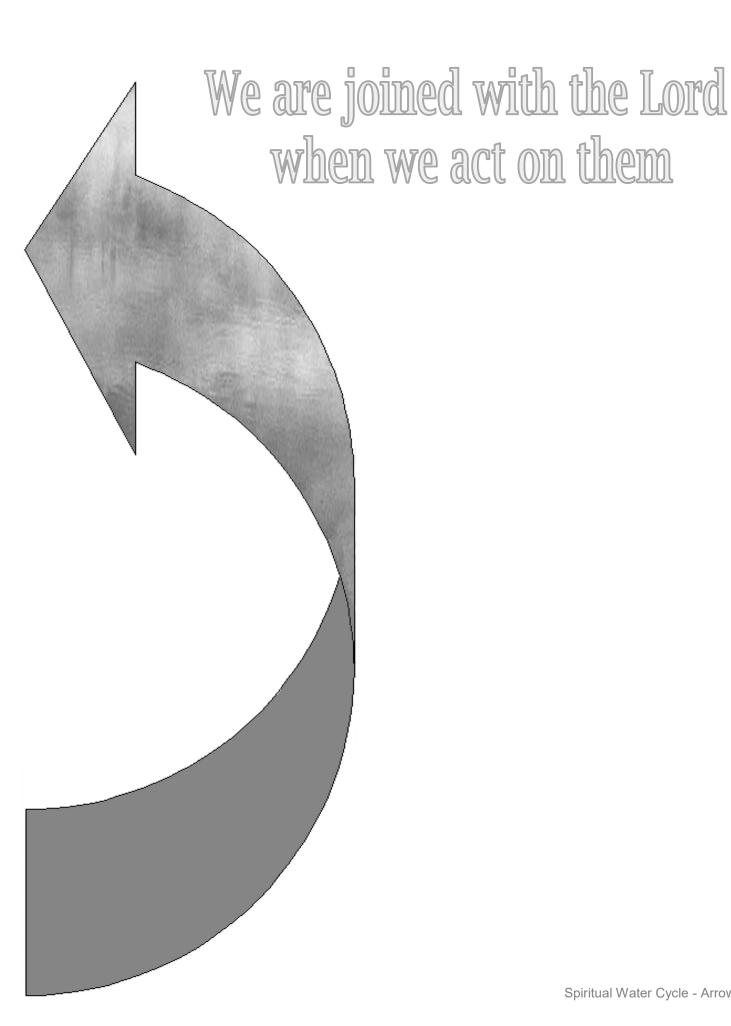
What are the two kinds of water in the creation story? (Practical knowledge from the world around us and knowledge from the Word)

Why is it important to have both types of knowledge? (Practical knowledge allows us to act on the Word in our lives—which is how we can be connected with heaven)

Take the Message Home

Read this quotation aloud: "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.... The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). You are in connection with true ideas that come to you from the Lord through heaven all the time. Have you had an experience where you suddenly were aware of this connection? Ask yourself, "Is there a part of you that feels "thirsty" for that connection?

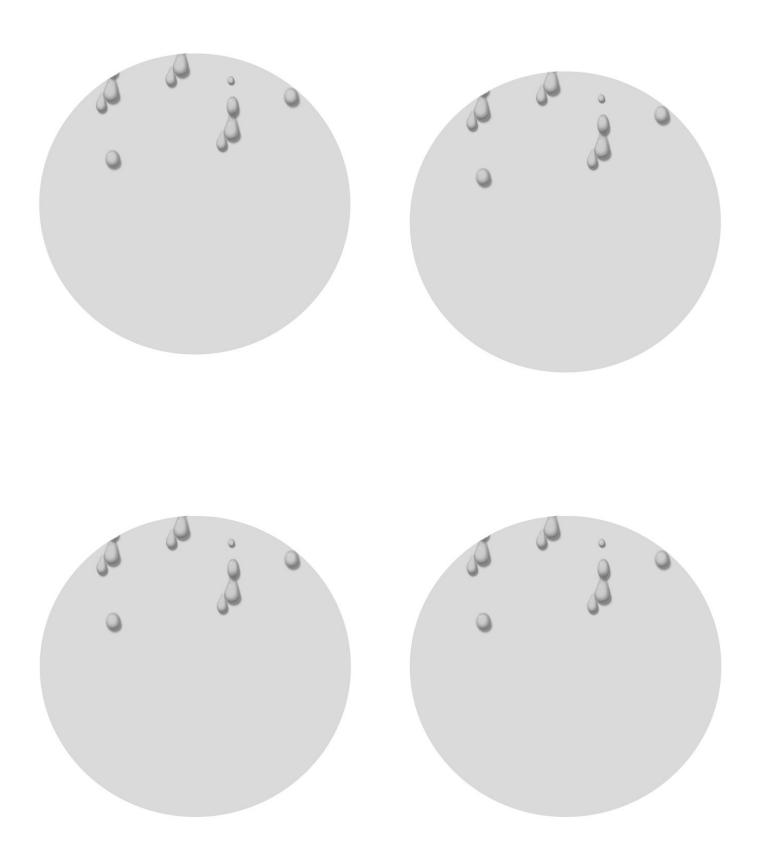
Give *Take Home Cards* (p. 14) to the students as they leave and suggest they put them up somewhere they will see them this week.

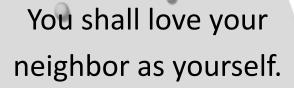


Spiritual Water Cycle - Arrow

Good and true ideas from the Lord flow in in the thing for which I sent it. so shall My word be that goes forth and it shall prosper give seed to the sower and bread to the eater and the snow from heaven, but it shall accomplish what I please and...water the earth, and make it... For as the rain comes down, It shall not return to Me void, from My mouth;







Matthew 22

You shall not swear by My name falsely.

Deuteronomy 19

You shall not hate your brother in your heart.

Deuteronomy 19

You shall not go about as a tale-bearer.

Deuteronomy 19

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The heavenly will cannot be opened unless good intentions are put into action. See Spiritual Experiences 602.A The heavenly will cannot be opened unless good intentions are put into action. See Spiritual Experiences 607.4 All religion is of life and the life of religion is to do good. Doctrine of Life \ Charity is doing what is good and just daily to people we meet. True Christian Religion A23 All religion is of life and the life of religion is to do good. Doctrine of Life 1 Charity is doing what is good and just daily to people we meet. True Christian Religion A23

Sparkling Water Globe

Take Home Cards

Make a copy for each student.

Whoever drinks of the water that
I shall give him will never thirst.
The water that I shall give him will
become in him a fountain of water
springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

Whoever drinks of the water that
I shall give him will never thirst.
The water that I shall give him will
become in him a fountain of water
springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14