

What's New?

Swedenborg once had a conversation with angels in heaven about the secrets the Lord was revealing in the Heavenly Doctrine. The following activity is inspired by the description of this discussion in *Conjugal Love* 532.

Procedure: Have one person take the part of Swedenborg, have two people take the role of wise angels (reading their parts together), assign one person to be the narrator, and have others read aloud quotations from the Word that relate to what the Lord revealed at the appropriate places during the play (see attached quotes).

Swedenborg: I was once in my spirit taken up to the angelic heaven and into one of its societies. And some of the wise there then came to me and said,

Wise Angels: What news do you have from earth?

Swedenborg: This is new, that the Lord has revealed secrets which surpass in excellence all the secrets previously revealed....

Wise Angels: What are they?

Swedenborg: In the Word and in each and every particular of it, there is a spiritual meaning that corresponds to the natural meaning. Through this inner, spiritual meaning, people are able to be conjoined with the Lord.

Narrator: Hear what the Lord tells us about the spiritual meaning of the Word.

[Have people read aloud one or more of the quote cards about the Word.]

Swedenborg: The corresponding elements of which the spiritual meaning of the Word consists have been disclosed.... Knowledge of correspondences—the symbolism of the Word—has now been disclosed by the Lord so that people of the church may be conjoined with Him.

Narrator: The angels greatly rejoiced that it had pleased the Lord to reveal this great secret, which for several thousand years had lain so deeply hidden.

Narrator: Hear what the Lord tells us about correspondences.

[Have people read aloud one or more of the quote cards about correspondences.]

Swedenborg: The Lord has also revealed truths about life after death.

Wise Angels: What about life after death? Who does not know that a person lives after death?

Swedenborg: People know it and do not know it. They say that what lives after death is not the person but his soul, and that this lives on as a spirit, of which they harbor an idea as of its being like the wind, not living as a real person until after the Last Judgment.

Wise Angels: What is this you are saying? Who does not know that a person lives as a person after death, the only difference being that he then lives as a spiritual person? What do people know of heaven and hell?

Swedenborg: They have known nothing, but the Lord has now disclosed the nature of heaven and the nature of hell.

Narrator: Hear what the Lord tells us about the life after death.

[Have people read aloud one or more of the quote cards about life after death.]

Narrator: The angels were gladdened that it had pleased the Lord to disclose such things, so that people would no longer be uncertain about their immortality.

Wise Angels: Has anything else been revealed?

Swedenborg: That the Lord is God of heaven and earth, that God is one both in person and in essence, in whom is the Divine trinity, and that He is the Lord.

Narrator: Hear what the Lord tells us about Himself.

[Have people read aloud one or more of the quote cards about the nature of the Lord.]

Narrator: On hearing all this, the angels greatly rejoiced.

Quotations from the Word

Can be read aloud during the play.

The Word	All things in the Word have an inner meaning by means of which they must be understood in a spiritual way (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 10406:5).
	The Lord spoke in such a way that every single word contained an inner meaning, since He spoke from the Divine (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 9166:8).
	Those who keep solely to the literal sense of the Word acquire no teaching at all from the Word, because they are separated from the internal sense, and the internal sense being the teaching itself (see <i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 9380:2).
Correspondences	The spiritual or internal meaning of the Word is simply the meaning of the letter unfolded according to correspondences, for this makes known the spiritual content that angels in the heavens perceive when a person in the world thinks naturally about what he reads in the Word (<i>De Verbo</i> 7:2).
	Divine things present themselves in the world by correspondences, so the Word has been written exclusively by means of them (<i>Sacred Scripture</i> 20:3).
	All the miracles recorded in the Word were done by means of correspondences (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 8613:3).
Life after Death	Human life, from infancy to old age, is nothing else than a progression from the world to heaven; and the last age, which is death, is the transition itself (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 3016).
	That a person's state of life after death accords with the idea of God he has affirmed in himself is clearly apparent from its antithesis, namely, that a denial of God forms hell (<i>Divine Love and Wisdom</i> 13).
	Let him who wishes to be eternally happy know and believe that he will live after death. Let him think of this and keep it in mind, for it is the truth (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 8939:3).
The Lord	The Lord's presence is unceasing with every person, both the evil and the good, for without His presence no one lives; but His coming is only to those who receive Him, who are those who believe in Him and keep His commandments (<i>True Christian Religion</i> 774).
	This New Church...is to worship one visible God in whom is the invisible like the soul in the body (<i>True Christian Religion</i> 787).
	The Lord is present with every person, urging and pressing to be received....[A person receives Him] when he acknowledges Him as his God, Creator, Redeemer and Savior (<i>True Christian Religion</i> 766).