



## The Washington New Church School Spiritual Concepts (3/23/2017)

### SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT THE LORD

#### Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)

1. There is one God, and He is the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The Lord loves us all.
3. The Lord is always with us.
4. The Lord is most powerful.
5. The Lord is our Shepherd, leading and guiding us.
6. The Lord came on earth when we needed Him most.
7. While in the world, He fought the hells and conquered them.



#### Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)

1. The Lord wants people to know that He is a loving, merciful God.
2. The Lord came on earth to show us how to lead a happy and heavenly life.
3. The Lord wants us to have and understand a written record of His birth, life, and resurrection.
4. Without the Lord's coming, no one could have been saved from the influence of hell.
5. The Lord is always preparing us to receive His Divine love and wisdom.

### SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT THE WORD



#### Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)

1. The Lord's Word is holy and true.
2. The Word has three parts: Old Testament, New Testament, and the Heavenly Doctrines ("the Writings" for the New Church).
3. The Word has power against evil, including evil spirits.
4. It is important that we hear or read from the Word every day.
5. The Word has an outer meaning for natural life and an inner, heavenly meaning for spiritual life.
6. Sometimes the heavenly meaning shines through like sunshine through clouds.

#### Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)

1. The Lord's life reaches us most immediately (directly) through His Word.
2. The Word contains *all* of the Lord's wisdom. We can learn from It forever.
3. When we read the Word, the angels understand Its meaning even more than we do.
4. The more we read and study the Word, the more the Lord will help us understand It.
5. The Heavenly Doctrines (the Writings) explain the meaning of the first two parts of the Word, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

### SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT CHARITY



#### Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)

1. We must learn to love the Lord with our whole heart.
2. We show our love to the Lord by loving the neighbor (i.e. following the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, etc.).
3. We show love to the neighbor by helping people and being kind to them.
4. The Lord gives every one of us special talents that we can use to serve the neighbor.
5. We should take responsibility to do our work well, both at school and at home.
6. We also help others if we take good care of ourselves by staying healthy and enjoying recreation.

### **Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)**

1. Heavenly joy comes from serving those in need without counting on a reward.
2. The Lord always knows our reasons or motivation for doing things.
3. Who is our neighbor? In order of priority the Lord is our neighbor, then heaven, the church, the human race, our country, community, family, and lastly ourselves.
4. In helping the neighbor we need to look for and support the good we see in them.
5. We need to recognize the power of evil spirits and how they operate, so we can flee from them.
6. We need to learn to forgive mistakes in others and in ourselves.

## **SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT WORSHIP**

### **Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)**

1. In worship the Lord and the angels are with us in a special way.
2. Worship in some form should be a daily habit (morning, evening and mealtimes).
3. Worship is a special way to show the Lord we love Him.
4. The important parts of worship are: coming into a sphere of reverence, opening and reading from the Word, praying (talking with the Lord), singing His praise, and reciting from His Word.
5. Baptism and Holy Supper are the two most holy acts of worship.



### **Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)**

1. We worship the Lord because we want to be led and taught by Him.
2. Worship helps us to open our hearts and minds to receive the Lord.
3. In prayer the Lord looks at our motives and ends, not just the words.
4. Worship from the heart is true worship and involves obeying the Lord's Commandments.

## **SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT THE LORD'S PROVIDENCE**

### **Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)**

1. The Lord is always taking care of everything.
2. He is with each of us in a variety of ways because we are all different
3. The Lord does all things according to order. (He is the Ruler, but He cannot break His own rules.)
4. The Lord's love and wisdom are constant. He never changes. We change.
5. The Lord provides everything we need to live.



### **Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)**

1. The Lord has all power over both good and evil.
2. The Lord always protects the good in us.
3. We need to feel His protection, and we do so by understanding His Word.
4. The Lord allows punishments to teach and help people change, grow and improve.
5. The Lord governs all the heavens and the earth - not just in general but in every least detail.
6. The Lord provides for leaders to help Him maintain order in the world.
7. When the Lord's rules are obeyed, there is charity, cooperation and peace.
8. Because the Lord loves us and provides for our freedom, He allows us to make mistakes. Then He helps us to see our mistakes so that we can learn to make better choices.

## SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE



### Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)

1. There is a heaven and a hell.
2. People in heaven are called angels and people in hell are called evil spirits.
3. People who do what is good go to heaven and people who do what is bad go to hell when their lives in this world are finished.
4. When you go to heaven (the spiritual world), you get a spiritual body that is just like the body you have now, only better.
5. There is marriage in heaven, and all the angels in heaven are married.
6. Angels have special jobs that the Lord gives them so that they feel useful and happy.
7. The Lord showed Swedenborg all about the spiritual world so he could tell us about it.

### Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)

1. Waking up in the spiritual world is called Resurrection, and we all experience this immediately after the death of the natural body.
2. There are 3 main divisions of the spiritual world: heaven, hell, and the intermediate world of spirits.
3. In heaven and in hell you live with people who love the same things you love.
4. Our natural world mirrors the spiritual world.
5. Angels protect us from harm; evil spirits do their best to harm us.
6. The angels have power against evil and we enlist their support when we cooperate with them.

## SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT MARRIAGE

### Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)

1. Marriage is an eternal, holy covenant between the Lord and a husband and wife.
2. The Lord gives the gift of true marriage love - on earth or in heaven - to everyone who honors His commandments.
3. When a mother and father look to the Lord together He can give them lasting happiness.
4. The Lord leads us to find our true marriage partner when we follow His teachings.
5. Learning to be a loyal and kind friend helps us to be a loyal and kind husband or wife.



### Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)

1. Love to the Lord is the basis of all love, especially the love in marriage.
2. The Lord is always leading and preparing us for the ideals of this true marriage love.
3. Marriage is more than just choosing the right partner - it takes persistent effort to make it work.
4. Once we have chosen a marriage partner, we need to reaffirm that choice every day.

## SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS ABOUT THE CHURCH

### Primary Level (kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades)



1. The Church is (or can be) the Lord's heaven on earth.
2. The Church conducts: baptisms, Holy Supper, marriages, ordinations, confirmations, and home dedications.
3. The Word brings the church and heaven together because the angels are near us when we read and hear the Word.
4. People become part of the church when they learn and obey what they have learned from the Word.
5. The church needs ministers to help teach people the Word.

### Intermediate Level (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)

1. The whole purpose of the church is to teach people how to be good and loving so they can be useful and happy - not just in this world but forever in heaven.
2. If we don't practice the good we learn we are not in the church, no matter how much we know.
3. The priesthood exists to teach the truth and lead people by means of it to live a good life.
4. The two uses of the church are worship and instruction, which includes sharing the truths of the Word with all who are receptive.
5. All people, not just church members, can be saved if they worship God as they understand Him and lead a good life.