

Swedenborgian Sunday School Notes for the Revised Common Lectionary

Introduction to the Notes

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Sunday School Notes sponsored by the American New Church Sunday School Association (SSA). These notes are written as supplements for curriculums that use the Revised Common Lectionary. Their purpose is to help Sunday School teachers add Swedenborgian ideas to non-Swedenborgian curriculums such as the Whole People of God (WPOG). This page gives you background information about the notes, and introduces you to the various elements in them.

Background

These supplements grew out of requests from several Sunday Schools in the Swedenborgian Church that use the WPOG curriculum and wish to include specifically Swedenborgian teachings in their classes. The initial funding to carry out this project comes from a fund that the SSA had been building up to reprint Anita Dole's *Bible Study Notes* when that became necessary. Since the Swedenborg Foundation has now taken over publication of the "Dole Notes," the Dole Notes Fund has been freed up for new curriculum development.

In the spirit of that source of funding, and in recognition of the fine tradition Anita Dole represents in Swedenborgian Sunday Schools, these notes are modeled after hers. Source materials include the Bible, the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, the Rev. William Worcester's *Sower Notes*, Anita Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, and the Whole People of God curriculum.

Each page is formatted with a wide left margin so that it can be three-hole punched and inserted into teachers' curriculum folders. Sunday Schools that receive these notes have permission to make as many copies as needed for the use of their own teachers. If other groups show an interest in the notes, please direct them to the online distribution site:

<http://www.swedenborg.org/ssa/index.html>

Or have them contact the author directly:

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Here is an explanation of each of the sections that comprise the weekly notes:

Readings

Each week two suggested Bible readings are given, chosen from the four readings of the Revised Common Lectionary. The first is the main focus for the week, and can be read during the worship service to prepare the children for their classes. Preference is given to books of the Bible that Swedenborg says have a continuous, connected spiritual sense. (See *Arcana Coelestia* #10325 for a list.)

Overview

The notes start with a brief overview of the week's lesson to orient teachers to its main issues and goals.

Key Points

Next come a few basic ideas that the lesson is built around. Teachers who come up with their own lesson may wish to use these as focal points.

Example for Teaching Children

This is a sample narrative written in the voice of a teacher speaking to the children. It is not meant to be read in class as is, but to serve as a model for how teachers might present the lesson to the children. Please put the lesson in your own words!

One of the limitations of these notes is their brevity. The SSA is not currently prepared to produce a full, graded set of notes. Due to this limitation, these notes are aimed at what is perhaps a mid-level age group in our current Sunday Schools: about eight to ten. Teachers will need to adapt them to the age levels of classes for other ages.

Basic Correspondences

Basic correspondences are provided for a few key people, places, and things in the Bible reading. Note that correspondences vary according to the Biblical context. Something with a negative correspondence in one story may have a good correspondence in another—or its correspondence may be different, depending on how it functions in that particular story.

Thoughts from Swedenborg

One to four quotes from Swedenborg are included in a modern translation as source material for teachers to build upon in teaching the children. They can also serve as a basis for discussion in older classes.