

# Council in Heaven Teaching Plan and Activity

(From Lesson 2, "Jesus Christ Volunteered to Be Our Savior," *Primary 7: New Testament*, pp. 5-8.)

## Scripture Search, Matching, & Coloring Activity

Display a picture of Jesus Christ in the Council in Heaven and tell the story of Jesus' volunteering to be our Savior with the following activity: (see "Story Summary Pages" document.)

- Distribute scripture references among the children. Invite them to read their assignments silently.
- Once they have figured out their scripture, have them look around the room for the white paper that matches their scripture assignments.
- Invite the children to sketch a picture on the paper that illustrates their part of the story. (Maybe play soft music in the background, like "I Am a Child of God").
- Invite the children to find the number written in the corner of their paper, then stand in order in a circle in the middle of the room, holding their paper in front of them.
- Invite the children in turn to read the summary on their paper to the other children.
- If time allows, ask the following discussion questions:
  - What do you think it was like to live in heaven with Heavenly Father?
  - How does it make you feel to know that Heavenly Father is the Father of your spirit?
  - What does it mean that Jesus is the older brother of our spirits?
  - How did Lucifer want to change Heavenly Father's plan?
  - How does it make you feel to know that Jesus volunteered to suffer and die for you?
  - How do you know that you chose to follow Jesus in the premortal life?
  - Why are you glad you made that choice?
  - What does the fact that you chose to follow Jesus in the premortal life tell you about yourself?
  - Now that we have been born in mortality, why is it important that we still choose to follow Jesus?
- Invite children to sit down reverently and put their papers under their seats.

Read quote by Elaine S. Dalton, "Remember Who You Are!", *Ensign*, May 2010, 120–23:

"You brought your faith with you when you came to the earth. Alma teaches us that in the premortal realms you exhibited "exceeding faith and good works (Alma 13:3)." You fought with your faith and testimony to defend the plan that was presented by God. You knew the plan was good, and you knew that the Savior would do what He said He would do—because you knew Him! You stood with Him, and you were eager for your opportunity to come to earth. You knew what was going to be required of you. You knew it would be difficult, and yet you were confident not only that you could accomplish your divine mission but that you could make a difference. You are "choice spirits who were reserved to come forth in the fulness of times to take part in laying the foundations of the great latter-day work, including the building of the temples and the performance of ordinances therein (D&C 138:53–54)."

## Closing

**Bear testimony** that you and the children in your class are spirit children of Heavenly Father and that Jesus loves us so much that in the premortal life he volunteered to be our Savior. We loved Heavenly Father so much that we chose to follow his plan. Emphasize how important it is that the children continue to follow Heavenly Father's plan here on earth. Testify that following Jesus and obeying his commandments are the only ways to be truly happy.

Sing "I Lived in Heaven" (*Children's Songbook*, p. 4)

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## WORDS FROM “STORY SUMMARY PAGES” DOCUMENT

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1: In the premortal life we were spirit children and lived with our heavenly parents (Hebrews 12:9).

2: Jesus was the firstborn spirit child of Heavenly Father (D&C 93:21) and is the older brother of our spirits. Lucifer, who became Satan, was also a spirit child of Heavenly Father (D&C 76:25–26, Moses 4:1).

3: Heavenly Father called a meeting for all his spirit children. At this meeting he explained his plan for us to become like him. He told us that he wanted us to go to earth to get a physical body. He explained that on earth we would be tested to see if we would keep his commandments (Abraham 3:22–25).

4: At this meeting Heavenly Father also explained that on earth we would all sin and we would all die. Heavenly Father needed someone to be the Savior, to suffer for our sins, and to die for us so that we could be resurrected (2 Nephi 2:5–9).

5: Lucifer wanted Heavenly Father to change his plan. Lucifer said he would save everyone by taking away their freedom to choose, which would have made it impossible for us to make mistakes or be righteous. Lucifer also wanted all the honor (Moses 4:1; Isaiah 14:12–14).

6: Because he loved us (John 15:13), Jesus volunteered to be our Savior (2 Ne. 2:6–7). He wanted to follow Heavenly Father’s plan and give the glory to Heavenly Father (Moses 4:2).

7: Heavenly Father chose Jesus to be our Savior. Lucifer was angry and rebelled against Heavenly Father (Abr. 3:27–28).

8: Heavenly Father’s spirit children had to decide whether to follow Jesus or Lucifer. One-third of Heavenly Father’s spirit children chose to follow Lucifer, and they were all cast out of heaven. Lucifer became Satan, and the spirits who followed him became evil spirits, who try to get us to do wrong things (D&C 29:36–39; Revelation 12:7–9; Moses 4:4)

9: These spirits who followed Satan did not receive physical bodies. All the spirits who chose Heavenly Father’s plan and followed Jesus in the premortal life have been or will be born on earth with physical bodies of flesh and blood (Abraham 3:26; Abraham 4:26–27).

**SUMMARY OF SCRIPTURE ASSIGNMENTS:** (for teacher reference)

1	Hebrews 12:9	NT p. 1535	Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live?
2	D&C 93:21	D&C p. 181	...I was in the beginning with the Father, and am the Firstborn.
2	D&C 76:25–26	D&C p. 138	... an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God ... who rebelled against the Only Begotten Son whom the Father loved... he was Lucifer, a son of the morning.
2	Moses 4:1	PoGP p. 9	That Satan...is the same which was from the beginning...
3	Abr. 3:22–25	PoGP p. 35	...the intelligences that were organized before the world was...and he stood in the midst of them...And we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them.
4	2 Ne. 2:5–9	BofM p. 57	And men...by the temporal law they were cut off ... Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the Holy Messiah ... Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin ... [and] layeth down his life according to the flesh, and taketh it again by the power of the Spirit, that he may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead...
5	Moses 4:1	PoGP p. 9	...Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.
5	Isa. 14:12–14	OT p. 880	How thou art fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning ... For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... I will be like the most High.
6	John 15:13	NT p. 1354	Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
6	2 Ne. 2:6–7	BofM p. 57	(see #4 above)
6	Moses 4:2	PoGP p. 9	...my Beloved Son...said unto me – Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.
7	Abr. 3:27–28	PoGP p. 38	And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first. And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate; and at that day, many followed after him.
8	D&C 29:36–39	D&C p. 52	... the devil was before Adam, for he rebelled against me, saying, Give me thine honor, which is my power; and also a third part of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency; And they were thrust down ... And it must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves...
8	Rev. 12:7–9	NT p. 1577	And there was war in heaven ... And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
8	Moses 4:4	PoGP p. 9	And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.
9	Abr. 3:26	PoGP p. 38	And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate...
9	Abr. 4:26–27	PoGP p. 40	So the Gods went down to organize man in their own image...male and female to form they them.