

***Lesson 23: The Prophet Receives a Vision of the Three Degrees of Glory***



# Purpose

- To give the children a better understanding of the three degrees of glory and to strengthen their desire to return to Heavenly Father with their families.

# I Lived in Heaven

- 1. I lived in heaven a long time ago, it is true;  
Lived there and loved there with people I know. So did you.  
Then Heav'nly Father presented a beautiful plan,  
All about earth and eternal salvation for man.
- 2. Father said he needed someone who had enough love  
To give his life so we all could return there above.  
There was another who sought for the honor divine.  
Jesus said, "Father, send me, and the glory be thine."
- 3. Jesus was chosen, and as the Messiah he came,  
Conquering evil and death through his glorious name,  
Giving us hope of a wonderful life yet to be—  
Home in that heaven where Father is waiting for me.
- *Words and music:* Janeen Jacobs Brady, b. 1934  
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**OUR OPENING PRAYER WILL BE  
GIVEN BY**

**(Enter Name Here)**

# **Attention Activity**

- **Close your eyes and imagine you are outside on a cloudy night when everything is absolutely dark.**

# Attention Activity

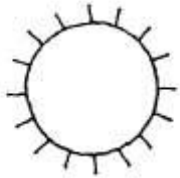
- **What do you see?**
- **What could you see if you had the light of the stars?**
- **What could you see if you had the light of the moon?**
- **What could you see if you had the light of the sun?**

# Attention Activity

- Open your eyes.

# Attention Activity

- Image you see a star, the moon and the sun.



If you could choose just one of these sources of light to see by, which would it be?

Why?



# Attention Activity

- Heavenly Father has provided three different places for people to live after they are resurrected.
- These places are referred to as kingdoms of glory in heaven.

# Attention Activity



- The **celestial kingdom** is the highest kingdom. It has a glory compared to the brightness of the sun. (See [D&C 76:70.](#))

& The **terrestrial kingdom** is the middle kingdom. It has a glory compared to the brightness of the moon. (See [D&C 76:71.](#))

& The **telestial kingdom** is the lowest kingdom. It has a glory compared to the brightness of the stars. (See [D&C 76:81.](#))

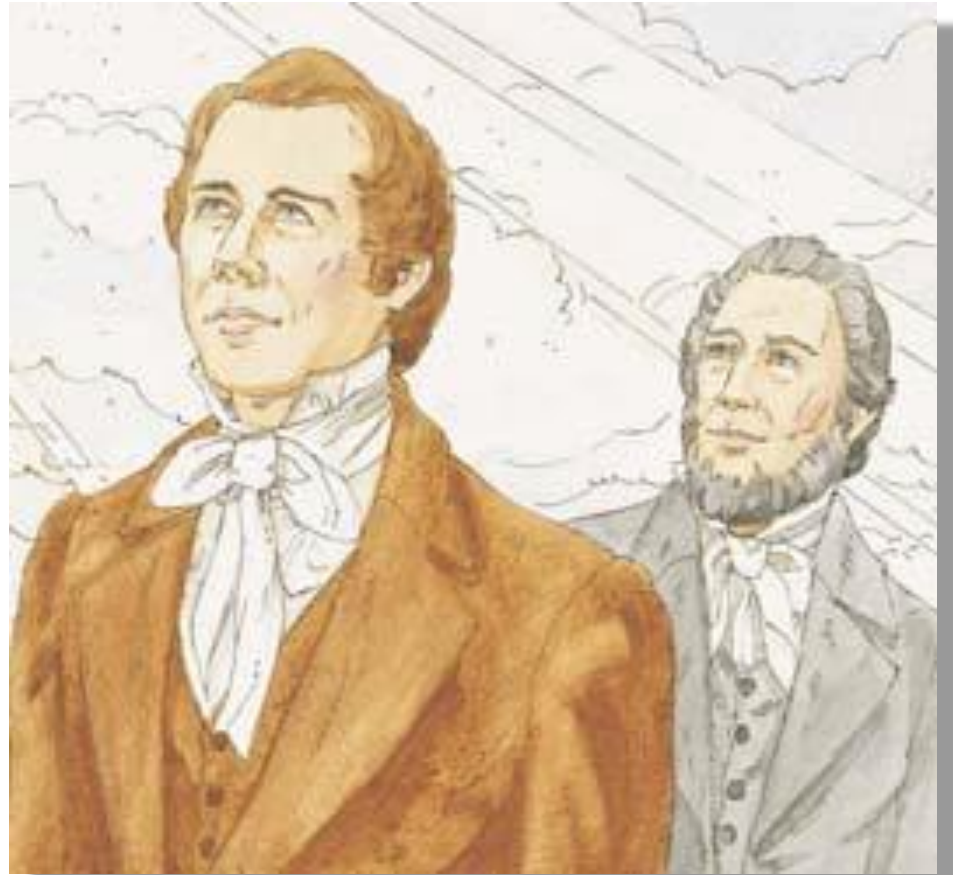
# Attention Activity

- We learn about these kingdoms and who will live in each one from a vision received by Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon.



& This is what Today's Lesson is about.

***Lesson 23: The Prophet Receives a Vision of the Three Degrees of Glory***



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☞ **One day Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon were reading the New Testament.**



- **The New Testament said that good people will go to heaven after they are resurrected.**
- **Joseph wondered if all people go to the same place in heaven.**

- **While Joseph and Sidney were thinking about this, Heavenly Father gave them a wonderful vision.**



- **In this vision they saw heaven.**

⌘ **They saw Heavenly Father and Jesus with light all around Them.**

⌘ **Then they saw angels worshiping Heavenly Father and Jesus.**





- **When Joseph and Sidney wrote about this vision, they testified that Jesus lives.**
- **They had seen Him!**

- **And they had heard a voice saying that He is the Son of God.**
- **That voice also told them that Jesus had come to earth to make it possible for all people to return to live with Heavenly Father again.**



- In the next part of the vision, Joseph and Sidney saw where people go after they are resurrected.
- There are three places, or kingdoms, for people to go in heaven.



- Righteous Saints go to the celestial kingdom of heaven after they are resurrected.
- The celestial kingdom is where Heavenly Father and Jesus are.





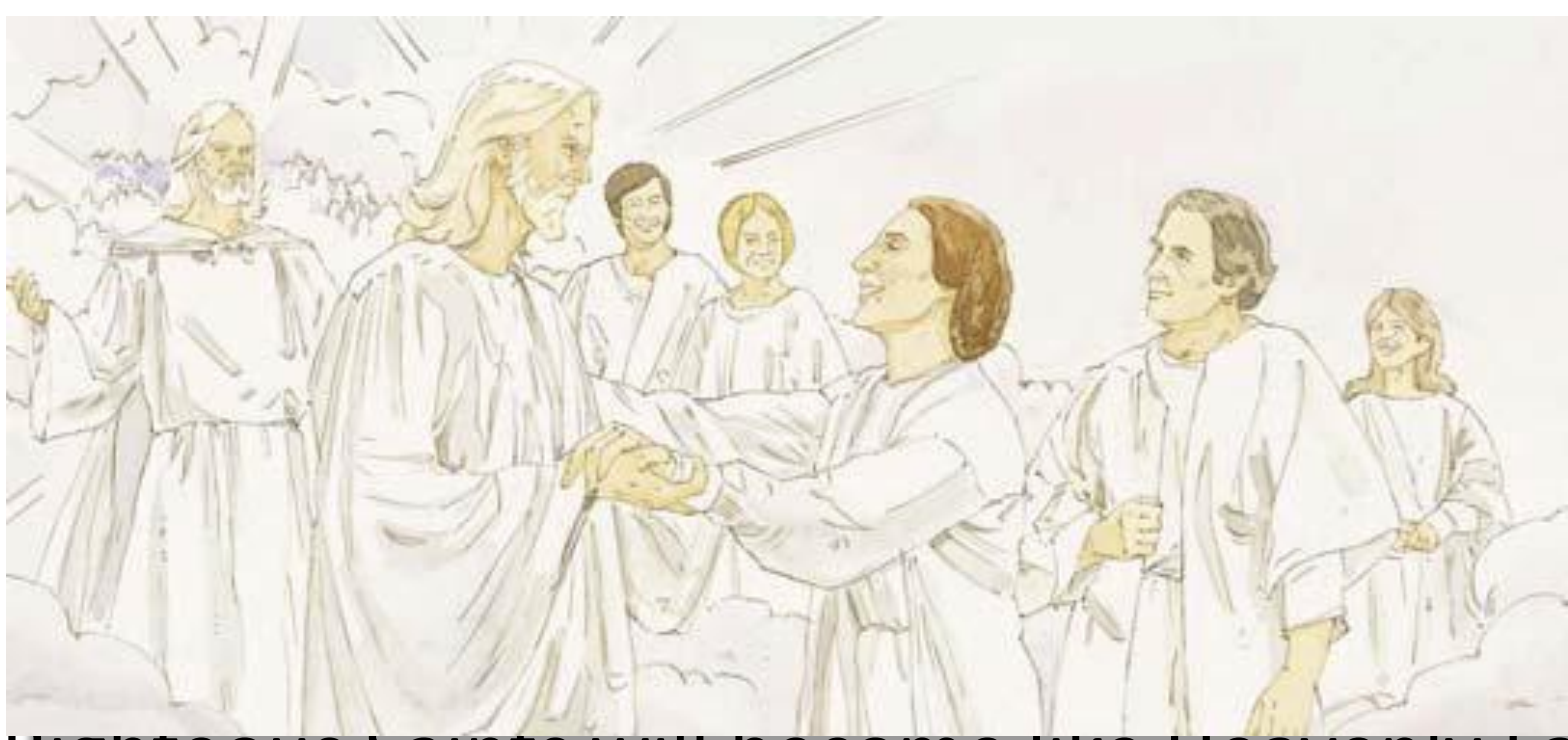
- Those in the celestial kingdom believed in Jesus Christ during their time on earth.
- They were baptized and received the Holy Ghost.

- Those in the celestial kingdom had many trials while they were on earth, but they overcame them through faith in Jesus Christ.



& Those in the celestial kingdom had many trials while they were on earth, but they overcame them through faith in Jesus Christ.





- Righteous Saints will become like Heavenly Father and Jesus.
- All things will be theirs.
- They will live with Heavenly Father and Jesus forever.

- **Next Joseph and Sidney saw the terrestrial kingdom of heaven.**





- People in the terrestrial kingdom were good people on earth, but they were deceived by bad people.
- They obeyed some of the commandments but were not valiant in their testimonies of Jesus.

- **The terrestrial kingdom also includes people who did not believe the gospel when they heard it on earth and then did believe it when they heard it after they died.**





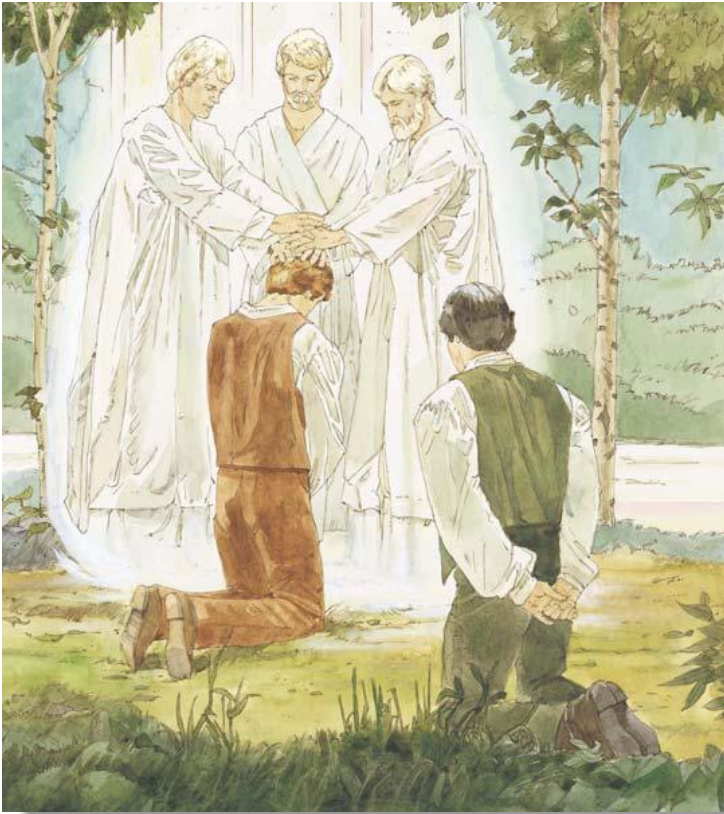
⌘ **People in the  
terrestrial kingdom will  
see Jesus.**

⌘ **But they cannot live  
with Heavenly Father  
and Jesus.**



- Next Joseph and Sidney saw the telestial kingdom of heaven.
- People who go to the telestial kingdom were not righteous on earth.





**& These people did not believe in Jesus or His gospel.**

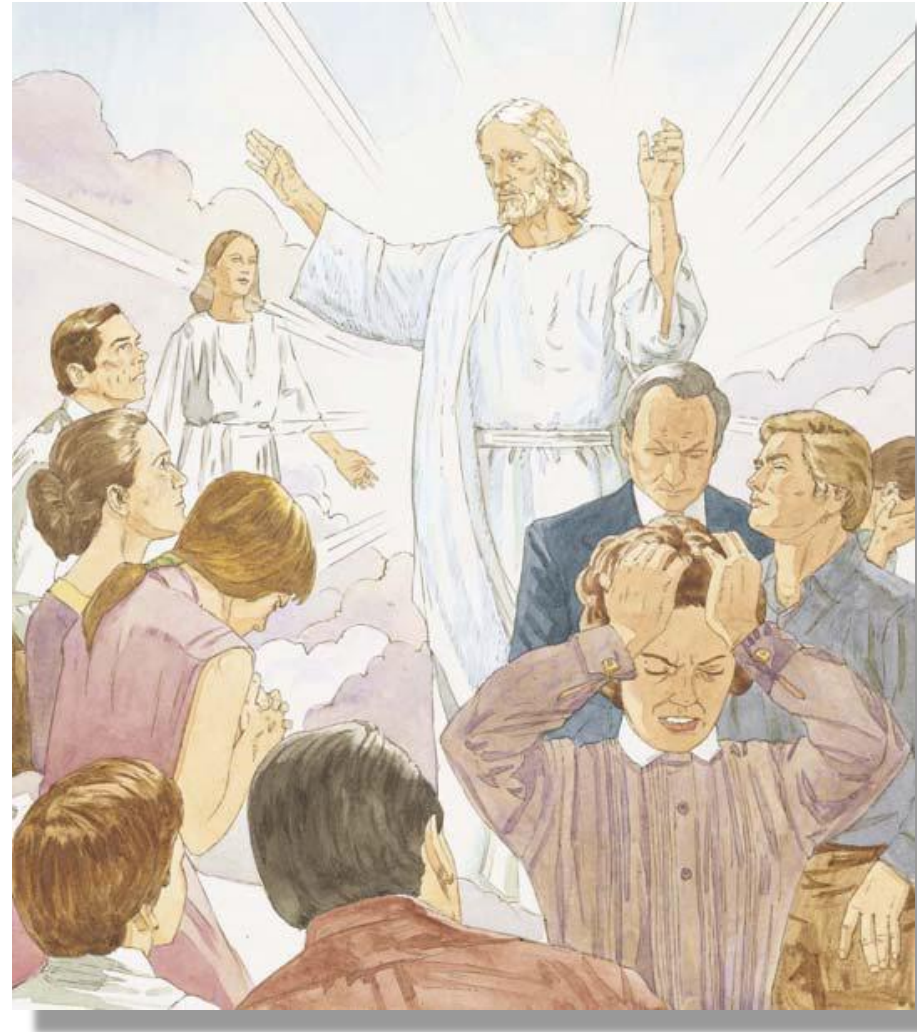
**& They did not believe the prophets and did not obey God's commandments.**



- People in the telestial kingdom will not see Jesus or Heavenly Father and cannot live with Them.
- However, angels will visit these people, and the Holy Ghost will teach them.



- People who are going to the celestial and terrestrial kingdoms will be resurrected when Jesus comes to earth again.
- People who are going to the telestial kingdom will not be resurrected until 1,000 years after Jesus comes again.





- In this vision, Joseph and Sidney also saw where the people who are most wicked will go.

⌘ **They will be with Satan. They cannot be with Heavenly Father, Jesus, or the Holy Ghost.**

- **But then these people did very bad things.**
- **They denied the truth and defied God's power.**
- **They denied the Holy Ghost.**



**& They said they did not believe in Jesus anymore.**

**& These people will suffer forever.**

- Joseph and Sidney saw other things in their vision, but Jesus told them not to write down everything they saw.

⌘ Through the power of the Holy Ghost, righteous Saints can see and know these things for themselves.

⌘ Joseph and Sidney thanked God for this wonderful vision.







- The vision was given at John Johnson's home in Hiram, Ohio, where Joseph and Emma Smith were living at the time.

⌘ About twelve other men were in the room and witnessed Joseph and Sidney receiving this vision, but they did not see the vision themselves.

⌘ Philo Dibble, one of the men present, recorded what he observed:

- “Joseph would, at intervals, say: ‘What do I see?’ as one might say while looking out the window and beholding what all in the room could not see

⌘ Then he would relate what he had seen or what he was looking at.

⌘ Then Sidney replied, ‘I see the same.’





- “Presently Sidney would say, ‘What do I see?’ and would repeat what he had seen or was seeing, and Joseph would reply, ‘I see the same.’”

- “This manner of conversation was repeated at short intervals to the end of the vision; and during the whole time not a word was spoken by any other person. ... Not a sound nor motion [was] made by anyone but Joseph and Sidney, and it seemed to me that they never moved a joint or limb during the time I was there, which I think was over an hour, and to the end of the vision.

- “Joseph sat firmly and calmly all the time, in the midst of a magnificent glory, but Sidney sat limp and pale, apparently as limp as a rag.
- Observing such at the close of the vision, Joseph remarked smilingly, ‘Sidney is not used to it as I am’ ”  
(quoted in Carter E. Grant, *The Kingdom of God Restored*, pp. 156–57).



- Joseph Smith continued to learn and teach about the three kingdoms of glory.
- In 1836 Joseph and others experienced another vision of the Father and the Son and the celestial kingdom while they were in the Kirtland Temple.
- This vision is recorded in [Doctrine and Covenants 137](#).
- In 1843 Joseph taught some friends that the celestial kingdom is divided into three levels, or degrees.
- The highest degree is the only part of heaven where people will live with their families.
- The Prophet taught that a person must be married for eternity in the temple to obtain this highest degree of the celestial kingdom.
- These teachings are recorded in [Doctrine and Covenants 131:1–4](#).



**DISCUSSION TIME**





- What did Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon see as they thought about the scripture in [John 5:29](#)? ([D&C 76:19–21.](#))

⌘ What testimony did they give of Jesus Christ? ([D&C 76:22–24.](#))

⌘ How does their testimony strengthen your testimony of Jesus Christ?



- Who will live in the telestial kingdom? ([D&C 76:81-82, 103.](#))
- Which member of the Godhead will visit the people in the telestial kingdom? ([D&C 76:86, 88.](#))

⌘ The Holy Ghost and angels will minister to the people in the telestial kingdom.

⌘ The people there will know about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ but will never live with them or see them.



- Who will live in the terrestrial kingdom? ([D&C 76:71–76.](#))
- Which member of the Godhead will visit the people in the terrestrial kingdom? ([D&C 76:77.](#))



- ⌘ Explain that Jesus Christ will visit the people in the terrestrial kingdom.
- ⌘ The people there will know about Heavenly Father but will never live with him.

- Into how many parts is the celestial kingdom divided? ([D&C 131:1.](#))
- Who will live in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom? ([D&C 131:2–3.](#))



- ⌘ The highest degree of the celestial kingdom will be those who have made and kept sacred covenants (promises) in the temple, including being married for eternity in the temple.
- ⌘ The highest degree of the celestial kingdom is the only place where families can live together.





Why would you like to live in the celestial kingdom?



# ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We must receive certain ordinances to be able to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom.

On the following slides are these ordinances.

Pick a number and read the ordinance.

Note: Click on a number, then click on the text that replaced that number to proceed.



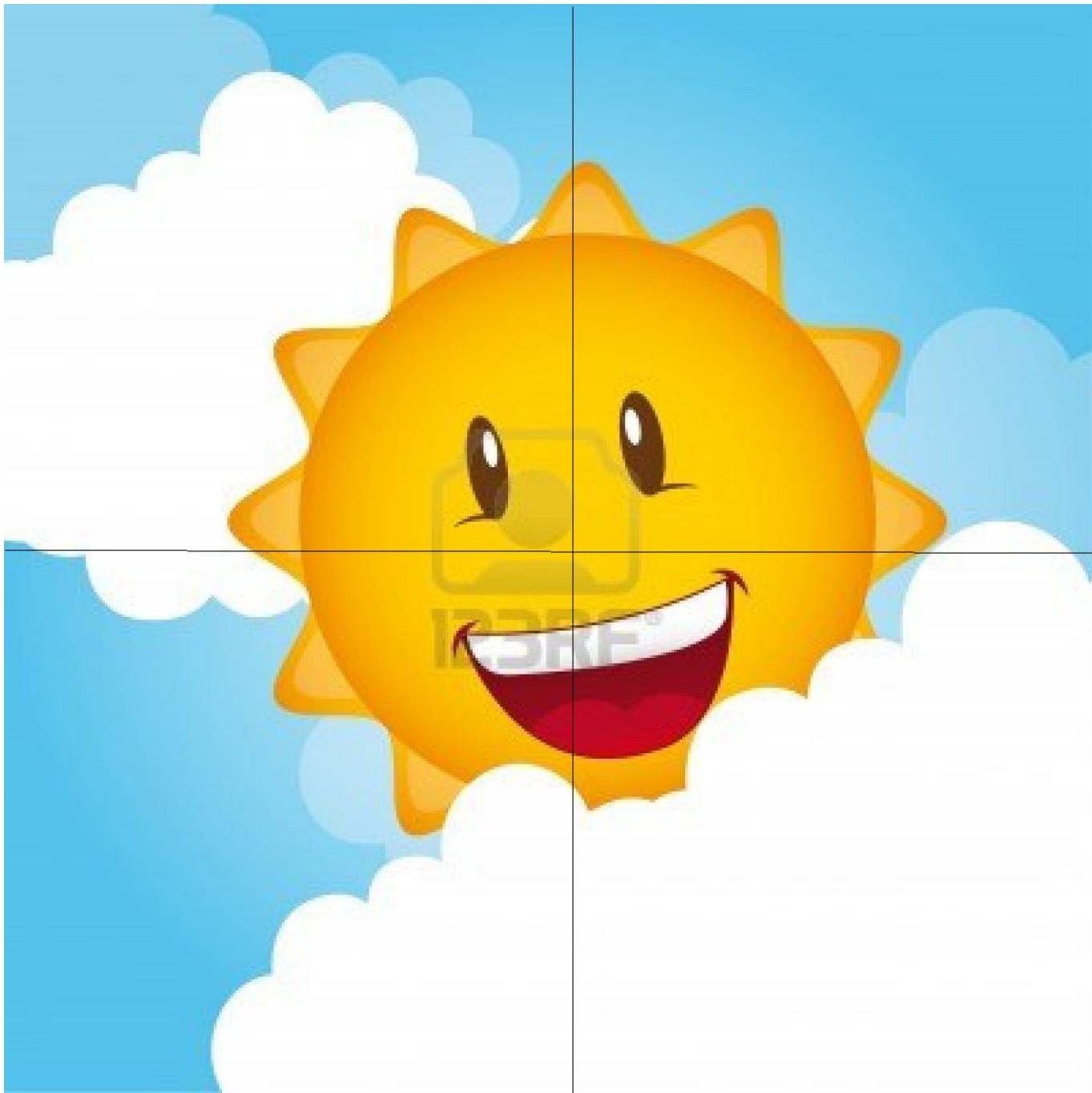
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Start with 1

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**OUR CLOSING PRAYER WILL BE  
GIVEN BY**

**(Enter Name Here)**

# TESTIMONY

- By living worthily and being in tune with the spirit, you will be able to have strong feelings for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and you will want to live with them in the celestial kingdom.
- I want to encourage you to choose to obey the commandments and receive the proper ordinances so that you will be worthy to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and with your family in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom.

***THE END***

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# D&C 76:70

- 70 These are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all, whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical.

# D&C 76:71

- 71 And again, we saw the terrestrial world, and behold and lo, these are they who are of the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the church of the Firstborn who have received the fullness of the Father, even as that of the moon differs from the sun in the firmament.

# D&C 76:81

- 81 And again, we saw the glory of the telestial, which glory is that of the lesser, even as the glory of the stars differs from that of the glory of the moon in the firmament.

# Doctrine and Covenants 137

- 1 The heavens were opened upon us, and I beheld the celestial kingdom of God, and the glory thereof, whether in the body or out I cannot tell.
- 2 I saw the transcendent beauty of the gate through which the heirs of that kingdom will enter, which was like unto circling flames of fire;
- 3 Also the blazing throne of God, whereon was seated the Father and the Son.

# Doctrine and Covenants 137

- 4 I saw the beautiful streets of that kingdom, which had the appearance of being paved with gold.
- 5 I saw Father Adam and Abraham; and my father and my mother; my brother Alvin, that has long since slept;

# Doctrine and Covenants 137

- 6 And marveled how it was that he had obtained an inheritance in that kingdom, seeing that he had departed this life before the Lord had set his hand to gather Israel the second time, and had not been baptized for the remission of sins.



# Doctrine and Covenants 137

- 7 Thus came the <sup>a</sup>voice of the Lord unto me, saying: All who have died without a knowledge of this gospel, who would have received it if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of the celestial kingdom of God;
- 8 Also all that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of it, who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that kingdom;

# Doctrine and Covenants 137

- 9 For I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts.
- 10 And I also beheld that all children who die before they arrive at the years of accountability are saved in the celestial kingdom of heaven.

# D & C 131:1-4

- 1 In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;
- 2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];
- 3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.
- 4 He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.

# John 5:29

- 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

# D&C 76:19–21

- 19 And while we meditated upon these things, the Lord touched the eyes of our understandings and they were opened, and the glory of the Lord shone round about.
- 20 And we beheld the glory of the Son, on the right hand of the Father, and received of his fulness;
- 21 And saw the holy angels, and them who are sanctified before his throne, worshiping God, and the Lamb, who worship him forever and ever.

# D&C 76:22–24

- 22 And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!
- 23 For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—
- 24 That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God.



# D&C 76:81–82, 103

- 81 And again, we saw the glory of the telestial, which glory is that of the lesser, even as the glory of the stars differs from that of the glory of the moon in the firmament.
- 82 These are they who received not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus.
- 103 These are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie.

# D&C 76:86, 88

- 86 These are they who receive not of his fulness in the eternal world, but of the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the terrestrial;
- 88 And also the telestial receive it of the administering of angels who are appointed to minister for them, or who are appointed to be ministering spirits for them; for they shall be heirs of salvation.

# D&C 76:71–76

- 71 And again, we saw the terrestrial world, and behold and lo, these are they who are of the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the church of the Firstborn who have received the fulness of the Father, even as that of the moon differs from the sun in the firmament.
- 72 Behold, these are they who died without law;
- 73 And also they who are the <sup>a</sup>spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh;
- 74 Who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it.
- 75 These are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men.
- 76 These are they who receive of his glory, but not of his

# D&C 76:77

- 77 These are they who receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fulness of the Father.

# D&C 76:50–52

- 50 And again we bear record—for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ concerning them who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just—
- 51 They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given—
- 52 That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

# D&C 76:62

- 62 These shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ forever and ever.

# D&C 137:5

- 5 I saw Father Adam and Abraham; and my father and my mother; my brother Alvin, that has long since slept;



# D&C 137:6

- 6 And marveled how it was that he had obtained an inheritance in that kingdom, seeing that he had departed this life before the Lord had set his hand to gather Israel the second time, and had not been baptized for the remission of sins.

# D&C 137:7

- 7 Thus came the voice of the Lord unto me, saying: All who have died without a knowledge of this gospel, who would have received it if they had been permitted to tarry, shall be heirs of the celestial kingdom of God;

# D&C 137:10

- 10 And I also beheld that all children who die before they arrive at the years of accountability are saved in the celestial kingdom of heaven.

# D&C 131:1

- 1 In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;

# D&C 131:2–3

- 2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];
- 3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.

Be baptized and  
confirmed a  
member of the  
Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-  
day Saints

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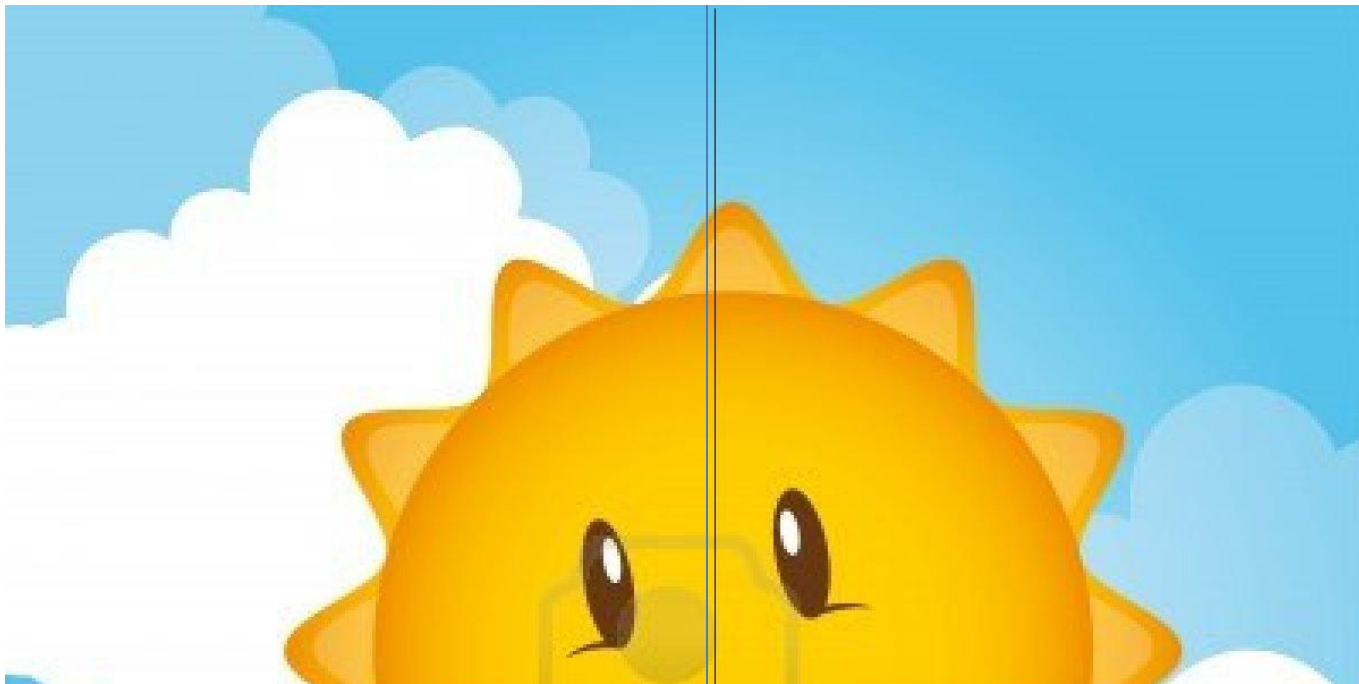
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Receive the Holy  
Ghost by the  
Laying on of hands

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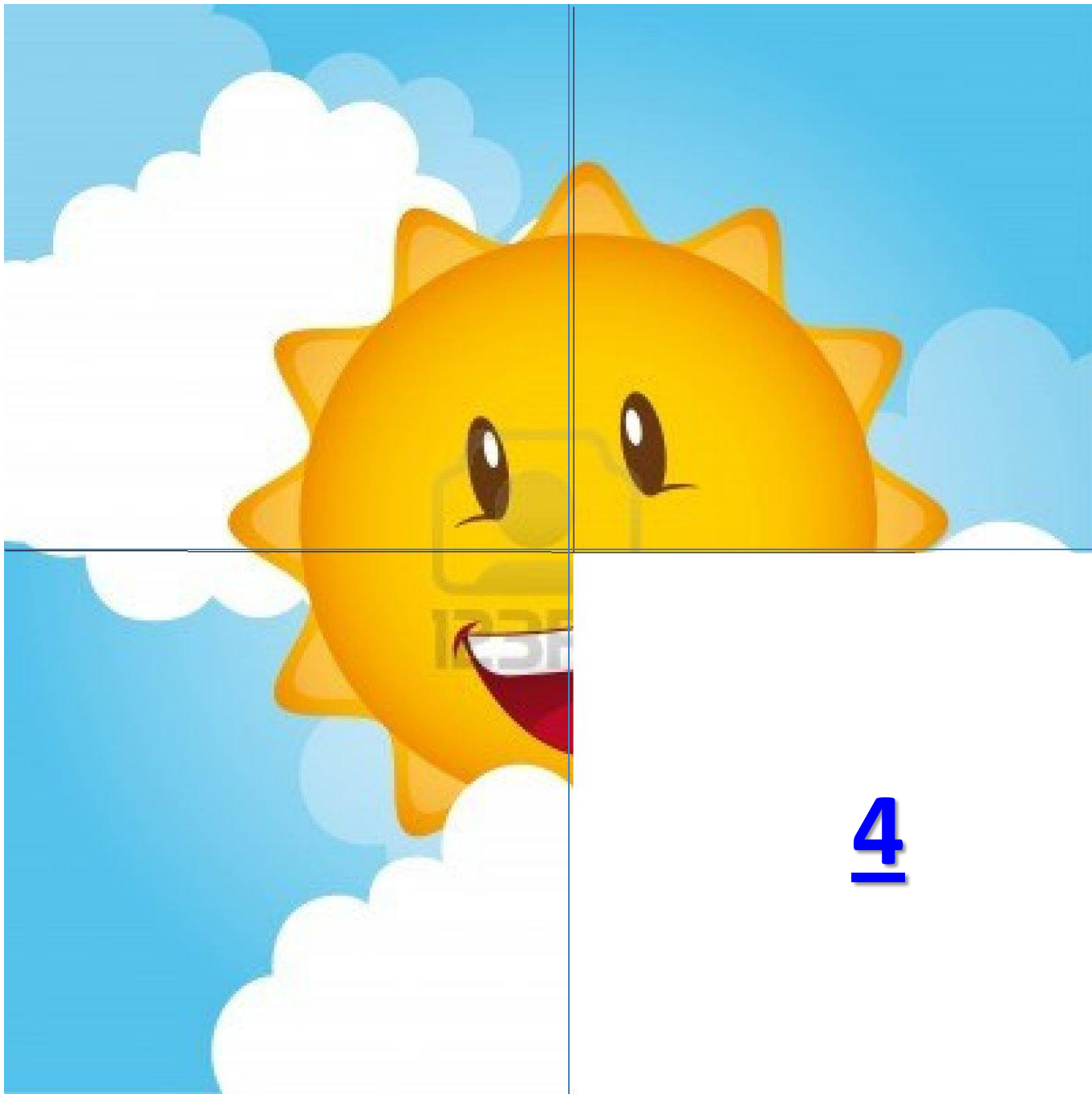


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Receive the  
temple  
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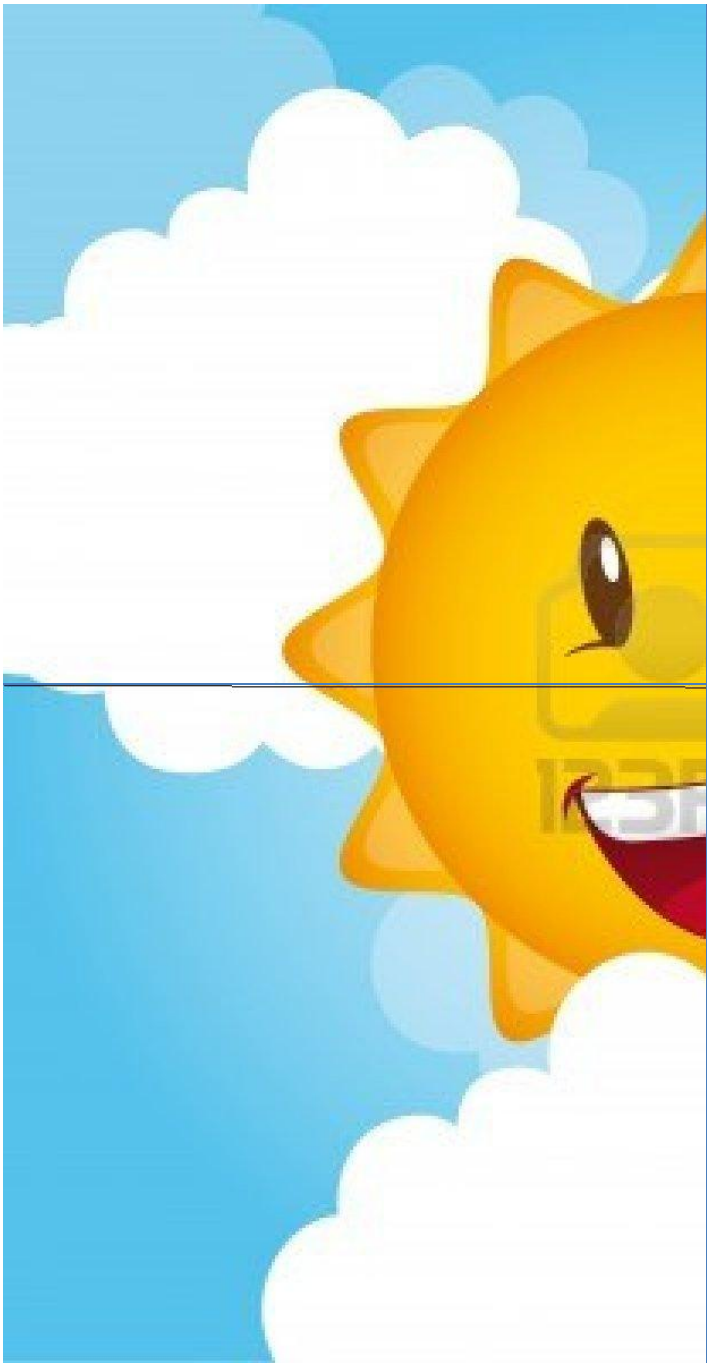
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Be married, or  
sealed, in the  
temple

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Receive the  
temple  
endowment

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Receive the Holy  
Ghost by the  
Laying on of hands

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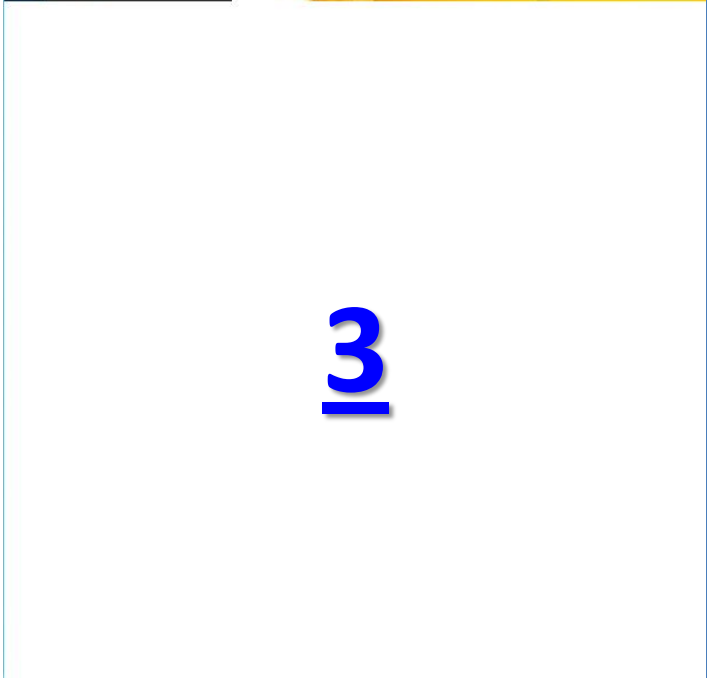
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Be married, or  
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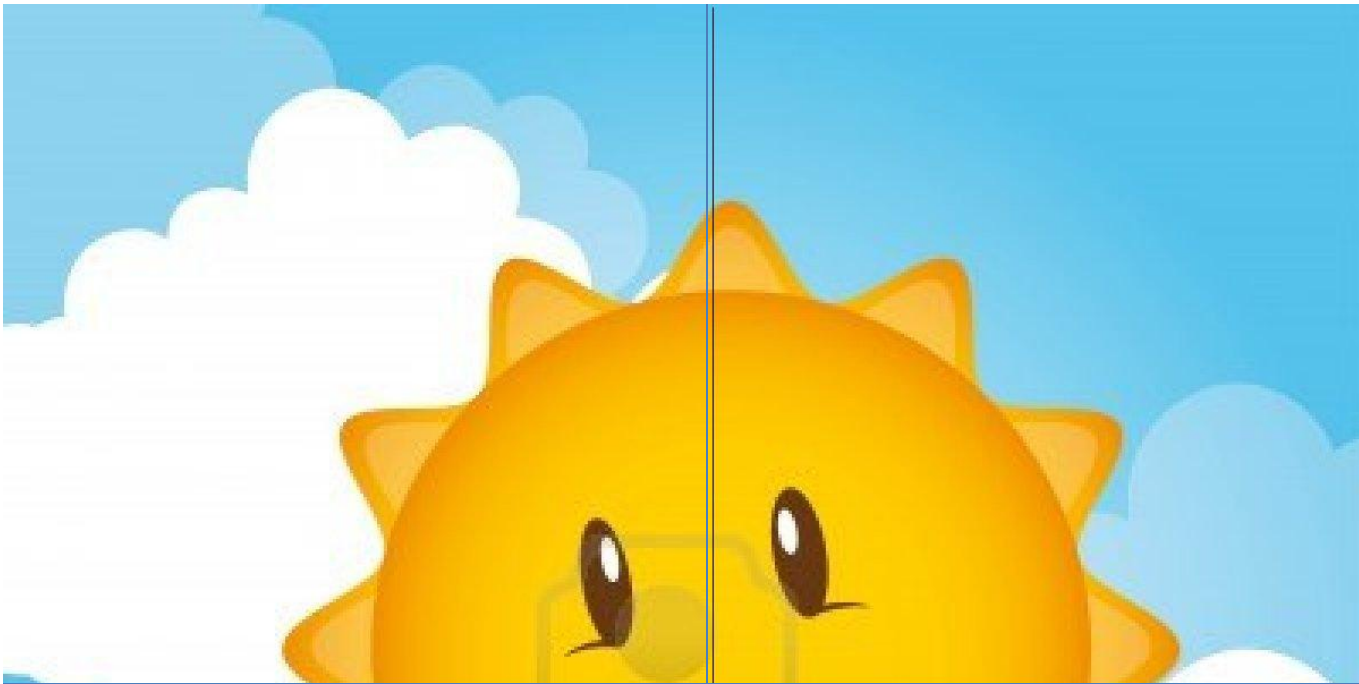


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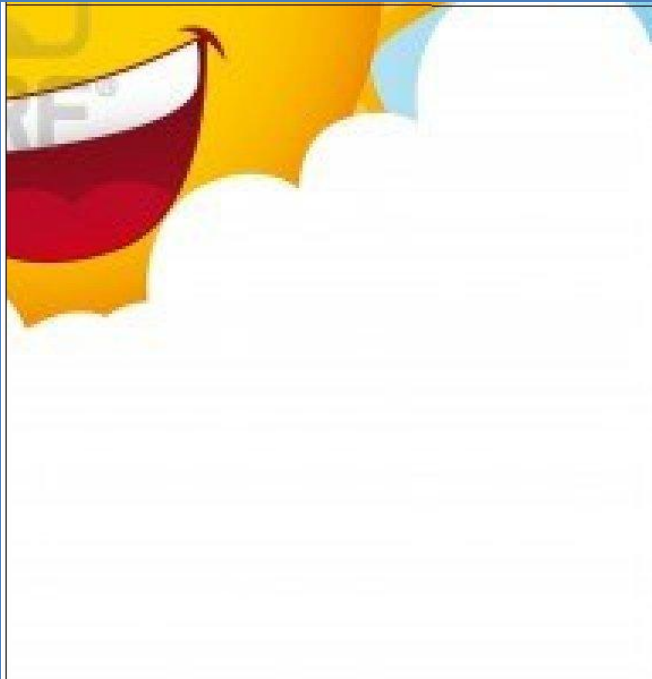


Receive the Holy  
Ghost by the  
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Receive the  
temple  
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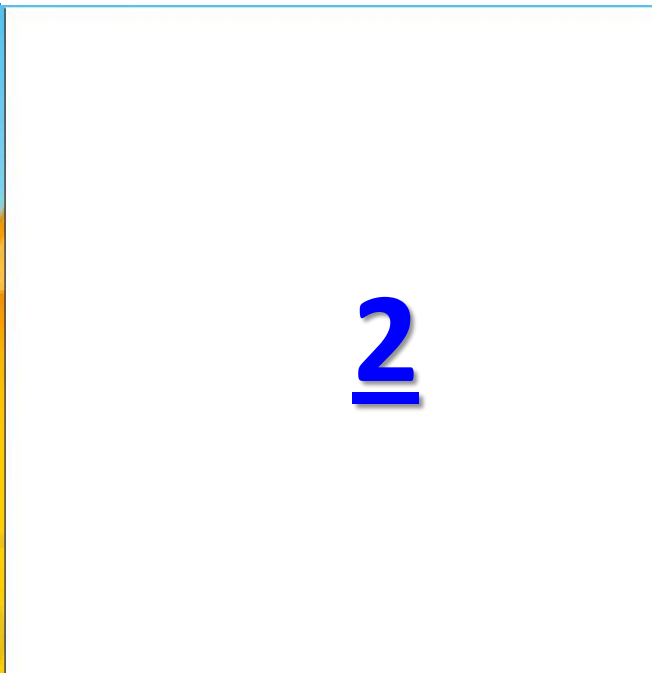
Be married, or  
sealed, in the  
temple

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Be married, or  
sealed, in the  
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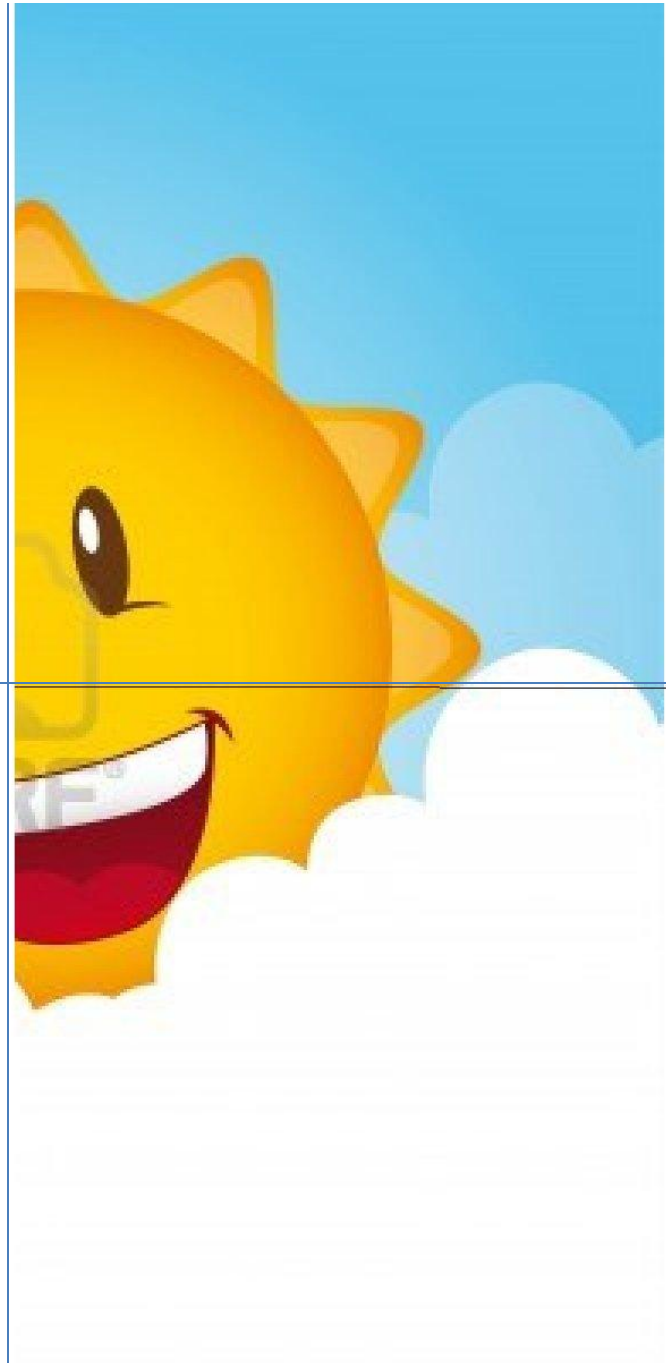


Receive the Holy  
Ghost by the  
Laying on of hands

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Receive the  
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endowment

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Receive the Holy  
Ghost by the  
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Receive the Holy  
Ghost by the  
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Receive the  
temple  
endowment

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Be married, or  
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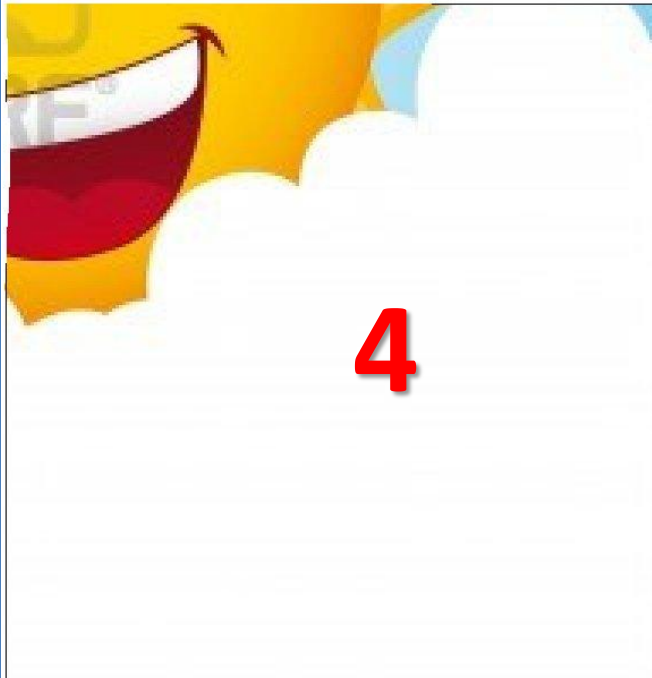
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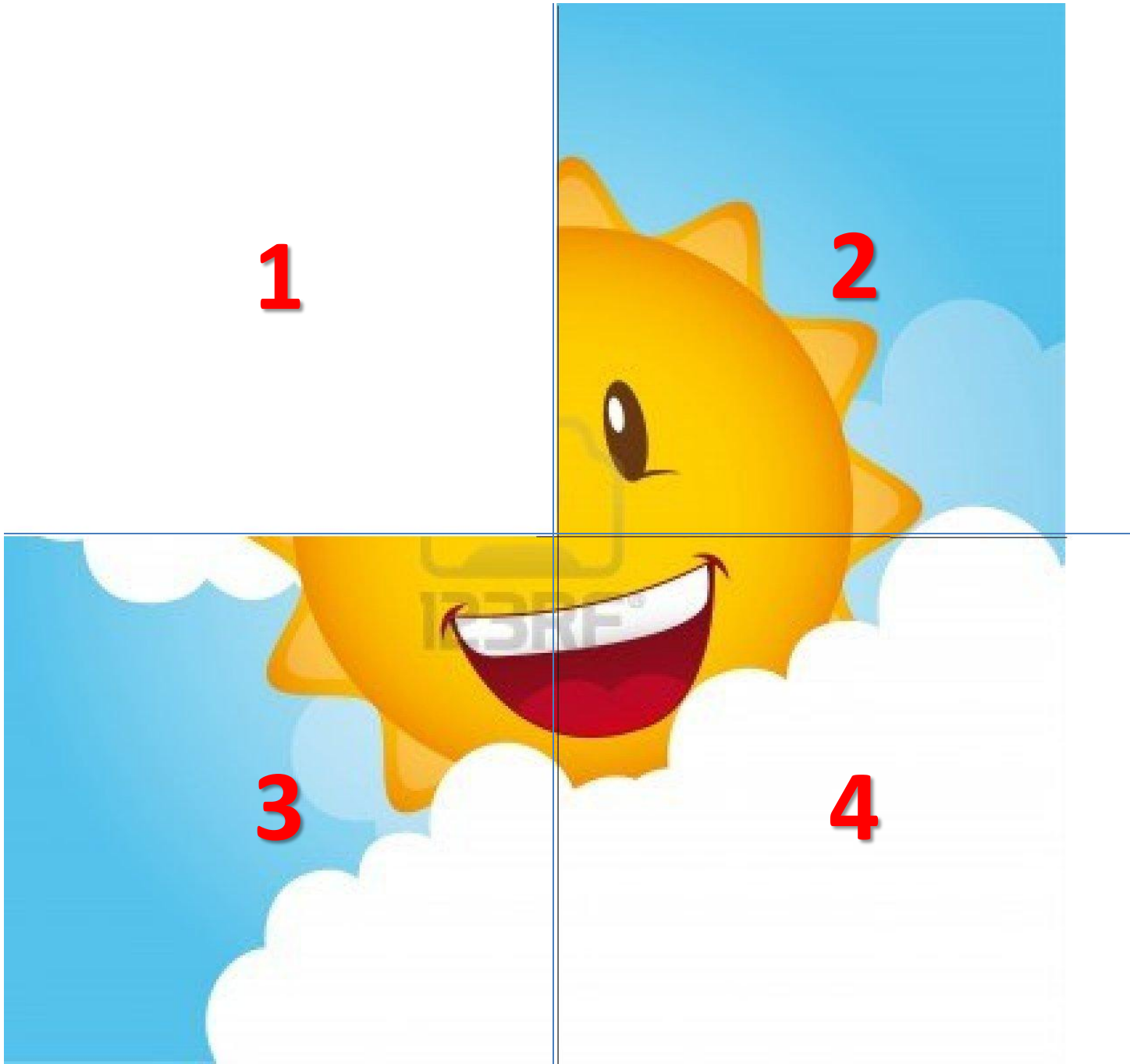
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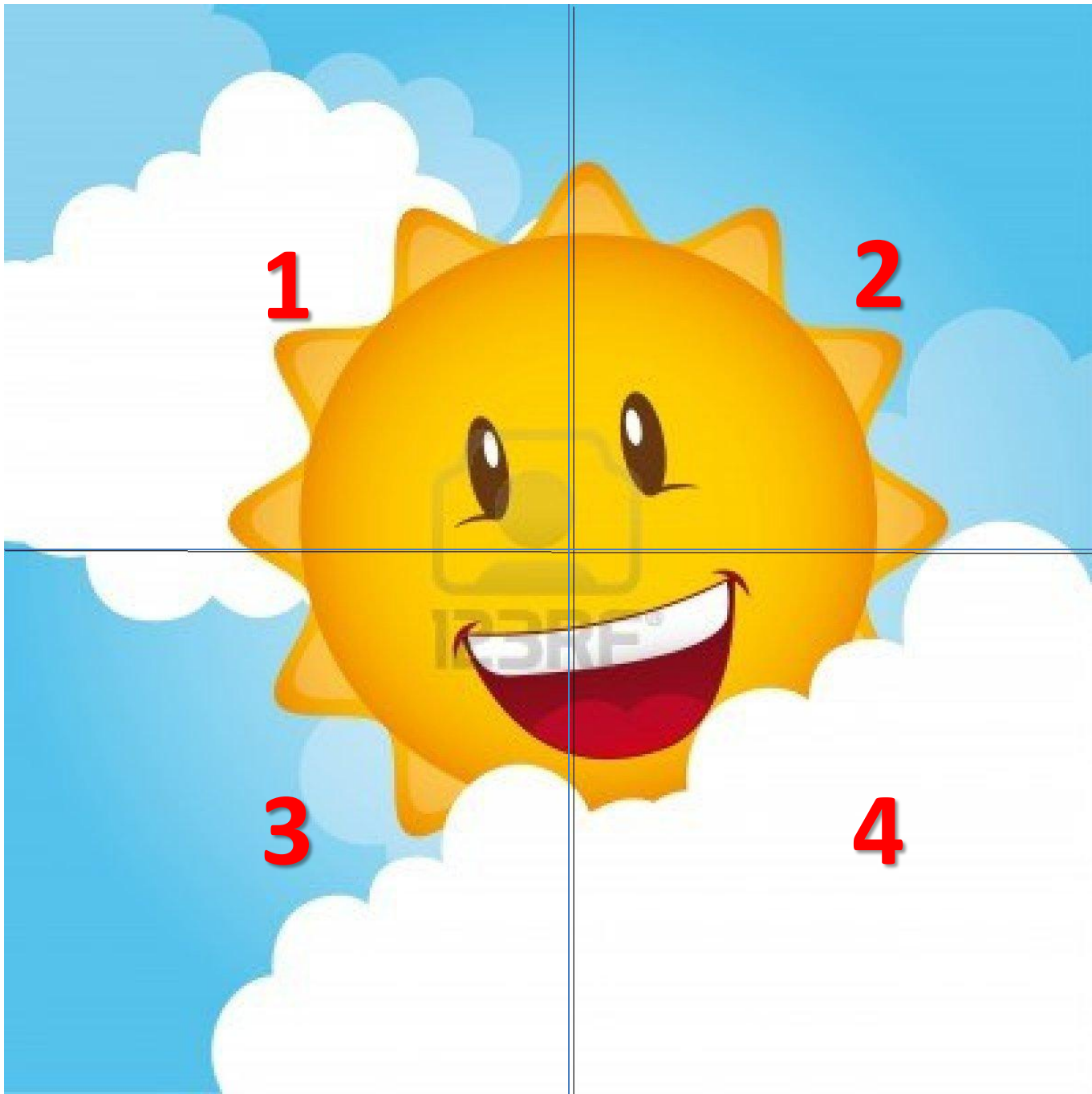


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Receive the  
temple  
endowment

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