

HYMNS, OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

LESSON 18 Lower Level – Children of the Heavenly Father

PACING: 1 day

ESSENTIAL QUESTION, BIG IDEA, and STANDARDS: See Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.

CONCEPT: Christian hymns are a cherished and valuable legacy, expressing the emotions and experiences of God's people through many centuries.

OBJECTIVES: Learn the text and tune of an important hymn of faith. Interpret the spiritual meaning of the hymn. Understand and communicate important facts about the life of the author of the words and/or the composer of the music.

VOCABULARY: hymn, hymn writer, hymnal, text, tune, composer, verse, stanza

RESOURCES: Links to performances of the hymn "Children of the Heavenly Father"

- ✓ *A cappella* choir (3:20), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NqzFGLYyo>
 - ✓ *A cappella* choir video(2:40), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyv019Q6884>
 - ✓ Mormon Tabernacle Choir, orchestral accompaniment (5:32), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAq-PZ6KbF0>
 - ✓ Mormon Tabernacle Choir, orchestral accompaniment, same as above with different video/photos (4:42),
, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqAncieXDoI>
 - ✓ Plumb (female vocal), instrumental and vocal, modern sound, words shown (5:29),
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV3MelnO90c>
 - ✓ Male vocal, sung in Swedish (2:18) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jwu7SC_dpaY
-

ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Either give each student a printed copy of the hymn, display the hymn for the class electronically or have the students find the hymn "Children of the Heavenly Father" (#101) in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.
- ✓ Read the words through together. Discuss what the words mean. Review the meaning of specific words to clarify the students' understanding: *bosom*, *nestling*. Does the Bible support the fact that our Protector never sleeps? Does God the Father *really* know about all our troubles?
- ✓ Play a recording of the hymn for the students. (See links above)
- ✓ Use discussion questions found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ Sing the hymn together. Discuss its form, melody and rhythm. Note how many *verses* or *stanzas* it has. Does it have a Refrain?
- ✓ Read or tell the story of Lina Sandell Berg who wrote the words of this hymn, using the biographical sketch found in this lesson.
- ✓ Discuss with the students Bible examples of healing. Discuss why some people are not healed although they have strong faith?
- ✓ Review the story by completing the Lesson 18 Review.
- ✓ Sing the hymn, focusing on its expressive qualities and memorization of at least the first stanza.
- ✓ Learn the sign language for the first stanza of the hymn.
- ✓ Choose a venue to perform the hymn. If no opportunity is found for a performance at the school, church or other community event, consider videotaping a performance for future use.
- ✓ Create posters for a bulletin board display featuring aspects of the hymn story or the words of the hymn in a calligraphic style with hand-drawn illustrations.

- ✓ Use activities found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ Teach the students another of Mrs. Berg's hymns, "Day by Day" (#532).
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER STUDENTS:
 - Create a choral reading of the hymn.
 - Create a special arrangement of the hymn, utilizing vocal or instrumental solos or ensembles, etc.
 - Create a skit telling the story of the hymn writer or the circumstances under which the hymn was written. This may be presented to the younger students in a worship or at Sabbath School or church.

ASSESSMENT:

There is a Lesson 18 Review included. Also, any of the following assessments may be used: teacher observation, discussion, performance, teacher-created worksheets.

ANSWER KEY: (10 points) "Children of the Heavenly Father"

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. True
10. C

Children of the Heavenly Father

Carolina Wilhelmina Sandell Berg (1832-1903)

Carolina Wilhelmina Sandell was a big name for a little girl, so she was given the nickname “Lina.” Lina was born in Sweden where her father was a minister in the Lutheran church.

As a young girl, she couldn’t get out of bed for a long, long time. She was partially paralyzed but doctors didn’t know why. The doctors did not think she would ever get better. The story is told of how she began reading her Bible and praying one Sunday morning while her parents were at church. She read the Bible story about Jesus raising Jairus’s daughter from the dead and thought, *God could do that for me!* So she prayed that God would heal her and was suddenly made well! She got up and dressed and was walking around the house when her parents came home. They were astonished! (One version of the story says that after her healing she walked to her parents’ church. Either way, it’s an amazing story!)



She published her first book of poems when she was only 16. These expressed her feelings about God.

When she was a young woman, Lina’s father drowned when they were on a boat trip together. That was a terrible experience for her. Only two years later, her mother died. So she went to live with family in another city. There she met the king’s sister, Princess Eugenia, and other prominent people.

Soon she found happiness with Oscar Berg, whom she married. He was a wealthy businessman. They had a baby boy but he died during childbirth.

Lina Sandell wrote over 600 hymns. Oscar Ahnfelt is the reason many of them are so well-known. He wrote music for many of her poems and sang them, accompanying them on his ten-string guitar, for people all through Scandinavia. Lina said, “Ahnfelt has *sung* my songs into the hearts of the people.” Jenny Lind, a famous opera singer of the time, also sang Lina’s songs in her concerts and paid to have them published.

Lina was so famous and her music so influential that she was called the “Fanny Crosby of Sweden.”

She was 70 years old when she died in 1903. Fifty years later, more than 10,000 people in her hometown honored her by attending the dedication of a bronze statue erected as a memorial to her. Lina Sandell Berg’s home is now a museum.

Student Name:

Hymns, Our Christian Heritage Lesson 18 - Review

Score:

10

“Children of the Heavenly Father” Word by Carolina Sandell Berg

1. Carolina Sandell Berg was called Lina because
 - a. People had a hard time saying her name
 - b. Her name was very long
 - c. She didn't like her full name
2. The country where Lina lived was
 - a. France
 - b. Italy
 - c. Sweden
3. Lina recovered from her paralysis because
 - a. She prayed and asked God for a miracle
 - b. The doctors found a new treatment that worked for her
 - c. She was really never sick
4. Lina published a book of poems when she was only
 - a. 14
 - b. 16
 - c. 18
5. How did Lina's father die?
 - a. He had a disease
 - b. He fell from a ladder
 - c. He fell from a boat and drowned
6. After her mother died, she met someone else very special. Who was it?
 - a. Princess Eugenia
 - b. Oscar Berg
 - c. Both of the above
7. Who helped to get Lina's songs into the hearts of people?
 - a. Her father who was a minister
 - b. Oscar Ahnfelt
 - c. Jenny Lind
8. Who helped publish Lina's songs so people could buy them and read them?
 - a. Jenny Lind
 - b. Oscar Ahnfelt
 - c. Her father
9. True or False. Lina Sandell Berg was so famous that she was called the “Fanny Crosby of Sweden.”
10. What has happened to Lina Berg's old home?
 - a. It was torn down
 - b. It was made into a store
 - c. It was made into a museum

Children of the Heavenly Father

Carolina Sandell Berg, 1858

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA
Swedish Folk Melody



2. God His own doth tend and nourish, In His holy love they flourish;
From all evil things He spares them, In His mighty arms He bears them.

3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

4. Praise the Lord in joyful numbers, Your Protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender every foeman must surrender.

5. Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.