



Hurstville EST. 1905
New Church



The New Church Newsletter Hurstville Society June 2025

Teaching Our Kids about the Lord

By Rev HyunJin Yang

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)



The highlight of my Perth visit was the brief, but heartwarming time I had with the kids, Heidi (eight years old) and Ziggy (three years old), during the Sunday Service on the 18th.

It was when I gave them a children's talk on 'Four steps to draw nearer to the Lord'. During the talk, I invited them to stand next to me, and together we turned, around facing a copy of the Word that was set on a table at the center and the far front of the room. Where we stood was four steps away from it.

In my talk, I walked them through what each step was that would draw them near to the Lord, and for each of the steps, we made one step at a time towards the Word.

The best moment was when I saw their eyes lighting up with curiosity, as if something about the Lord struck their thoughts, as they were hearing it. It was the twinkling glow in their eyes that made the moment very special for me.

The part that I didn't see coming, and that made it even funny was when Ziggy flinched and pulled back a bit, covering the toy with his tiny hand, as I explained what it means to 'steal', and it may mean that someone takes his toy that he was holding dearly in his left hand without his permission.



He understood what it might mean for him and how bad it may sound. Heidi, too, seemed to pick it up quickly, along with the message that to ‘not steal’ even when so tempted would make them happy and make the Lord happy as well.

Importance of Teaching Our Children



The time I had with them reminded me of one important tenet that has been long emphasized in the church: to teach our children in the Lord’s Word and help them know about who the Lord is. I think we all understand how vital it can be.

It may be argued that teaching our children to ‘not steal’, just as my lesson for the children was, isn’t necessarily a religious lesson nor something that only the church can teach. In other words, it may be argued that it is a civil and moral lesson that any child can have from different settings outside of the church. That is, it doesn’t need to take place at church or within a church setting.

And yet, when we teach our children in the Lord's Word, even in that general and moral teaching of 'not stealing' as included in the Ten Commandments, we aren't just leading them towards a moral lesson, but towards a spiritual lesson. I say 'a spiritual lesson' because we bring a spiritual aspect of it as part of the lesson. We not only teach about the behavior itself but also them associate with spiritual lessons, such as how 'stealing' can make their lives less happy, how that can gradually distance their lives and minds away from the Lord, and how that is against love of the neighbor, which is our life-goal that the Lord set aside for us, not in a way that the world teaches. So, there is a huge difference.

We also teach them how keeping His Word can become the doorway to meet the Lord more closely in their lives, by letting them know that that is how they can work with the Lord, and that is how the Lord is more present in their lives. It is in their thinking about the Lord and acting according to what He says that makes it different from teaching them simply about a moral code.



How Does It Help Them?



Though we may not immediately see the positive changes of teaching our children this way, we can hope that it will help our children in a couple of different ways. First, we can note how teaching them in the Lord's Word can open up a way in their thinking and in their minds towards things spiritual (AC1495:2, 6333).

For example, one passage from *Arcana Coelestia* (or *Secrets of Heaven*) describes that an affection can be communicated to a child by angels when the child is taught in the Lord's Word.

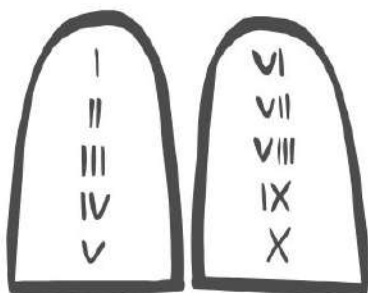
When these and similar details [in the Word] are known and thought about by a small child, the thoughts of the angels residing with the child at that time are concerned with the Divine things which they represent and mean. And because the angels are stirred by an affection for these things, that affection is communicated. This produces the joy and delight that the child gets out of them, and it prepares the child's mind for the reception of genuine truths and goods. (3665:5)



In short, when we teach our children in the Lord's Word, we teach them more than just morally and socially acceptable behaviors. Rather we teach them something deeper that touches their inner minds. This may as well prepare them to see how a general principle found in the Word or [the Scripture] speaks to a spiritual aspect of their life particularly in relation to their relationship with the Lord. As said above, it also helps them receive "genuine truths and goods" in their lives. I reckon that is significant.

I am sure there are tons and tons of other important teachings in the New Church about educating our children about the Lord in His Word, which we could discuss more. Indeed, the New Church education model has just so much to offer. For now, though, we can be reminded of what the Lord says about how we can begin.

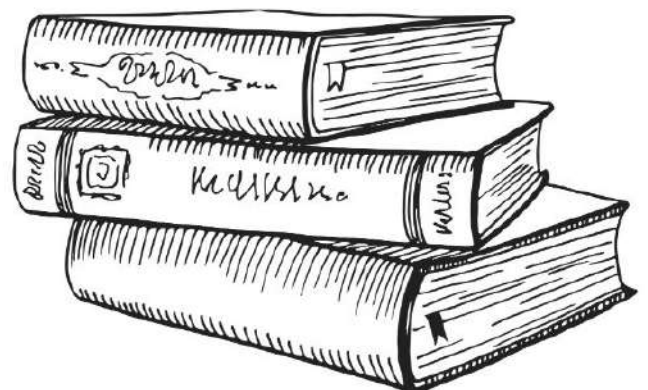
And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)



It starts with teaching our children in His Word about simple teachings as the Ten Commandments. We do so in our recognition and hope that these prepare our children and their minds to receive something genuinely good and true later in their lives, and that within those deeper things lie that may be opened for them as they further move forward.

The entire treatment laid out in Arcana Coelestia 3690:2-5 regarding this subject is worth reading through. Here, I quote a portion of it:

[A] person who is being regenerated is gradually led away from this more remote or morally correct life to life that comes closer to matters of doctrine that are Divine, that is, closer to spiritual life. When this happens, the person starts to wonder why such commands or precepts were sent down from heaven in so miraculous a fashion and why they were written on tablets with the finger of God, when they are in fact known to all peoples and are also written in the laws of those who have never heard anything from the Word. When a person enters into this state of thinking he is then led by the Lord, if he belongs among those who are able to be regenerated, into a state more interior still, that is to say, into a state when he thinks that deeper things lie within which he does not as yet know. And when he reads the Word in this state he discovers in various places in the Prophets, and especially in the Gospels, that every one of those precepts contains within it things more heavenly still.





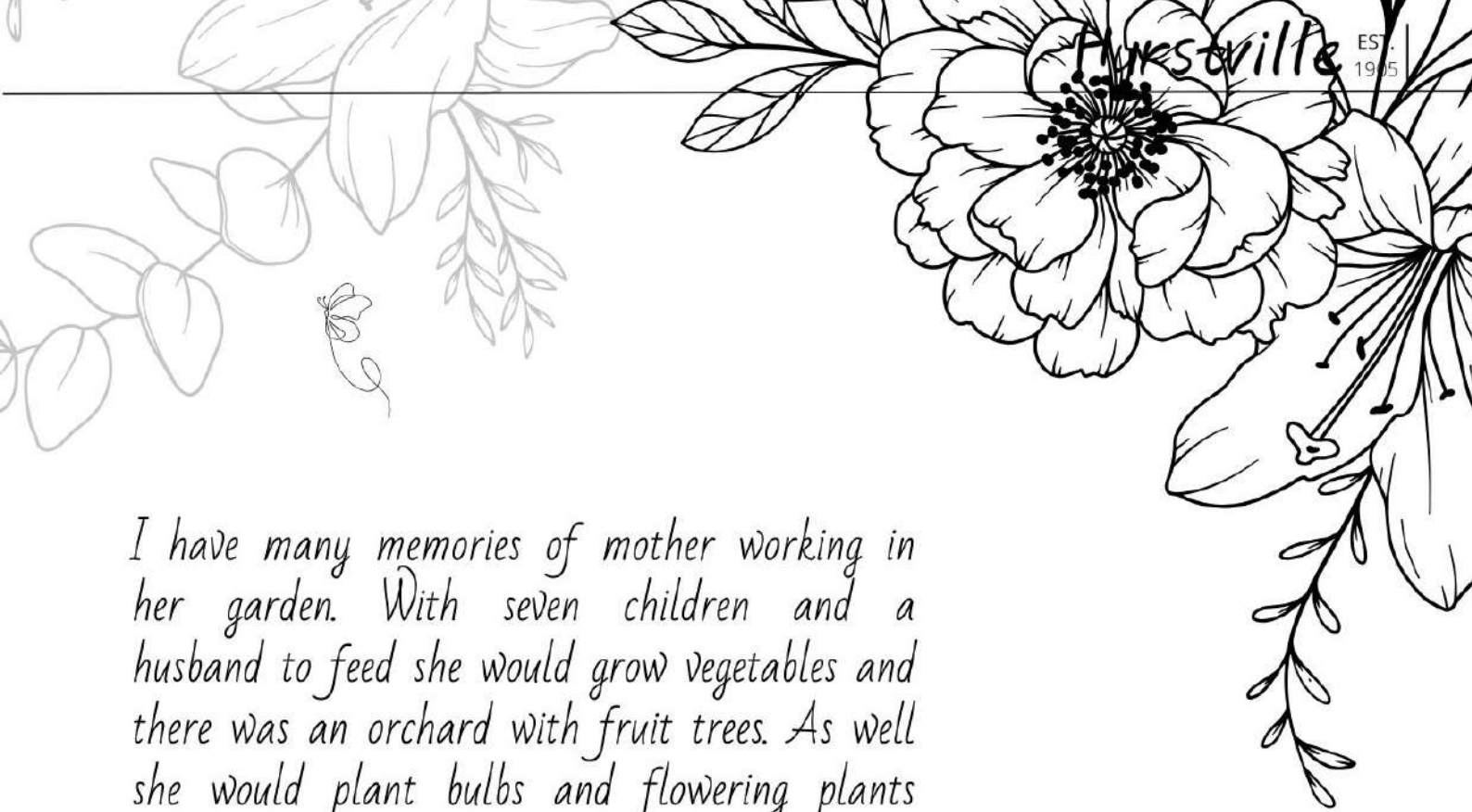
Happy Mothr's Day

You're the best

I agree that Mum was the greatest Mum, Grandparent and Great Grandparent that any family could wish to have. She loved babies and I am sure in the afterlife she will now be caring for babies and young children. She was always a behind the scene worker (i.e. in the kitchen) for any church and family gatherings. Mum always found time to help others, and she was especially happy when she was with young children. She was a hard worker, considerate, passionate and a very honest and upright person. We all loved you, Mum.

from Kaye





I have many memories of mother working in her garden. With seven children and a husband to feed she would grow vegetables and there was an orchard with fruit trees. As well she would plant bulbs and flowering plants and shrubs. It was her happy place. She taught me the names of all the wonderful things in her garden and it was from here I learnt to love and appreciate being in nature. She was an accomplished musician, and she encouraged all her children to learn to play an instrument. (...) Looking back now I think of mother as being the quiet achiever who was always there for us in the background, keeping us safe and by example showing her strength and dedication to her family.

from Margaret Heldon





I was placed into foster care at six weeks old, and that's when I met the woman I now call Mum. She later adopted me and became my whole world. Mum has been a foster carer for many years and has cared for over 80 children in her lifetime. She's given so many children love, stability, and a life they may never have otherwise had.

To me, a mother isn't just someone who gives birth. A mother is someone who chooses to love a child unconditionally, no matter their past, and who walks with them through whatever life brings. That's exactly who my mum is—and every moment I've had with her is a memory I cherish.

from Jarrod



Thanks all who sent me their loving memories of their mothers and grandmothers, some of which I included in our Mother's Day service. They were powerful testimonies.





After church service, we had a chance to take a photo of the mothers with their children (all happened to be their daughters!) who came to the service. Pictures above. (I hope you don't mind sharing these wonderful pictures! If you do, kindly let me know, so that I can think ahead next time).



Perth Visit (16th – 18th)

It was my pleasure to meet with the Perth New Church group for the first time. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with the people, get to know about them better, and lead the class on Saturday and service on Sunday. It was much thought provoking and inspiring to be working with another New Church group on the other side of the country. I express my thanks for inviting me and hosting me. Look forward to my next visit, whenever that may be.



Our Saturday class was on the topic of ‘did Jesus seek or teach division?’ I presented this talk first at Hurstville, and then, at Perth. We discussed and reflected on what ‘division’ can mean that Jesus said to give us, in His saying, “Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division” (Luke 12:51). We looked at and discussed other passages where Jesus uses seemingly divisive languages such as “I never knew you; depart from Me” (Matthew 7:23) and “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Matthew 12:30).



There was much to discuss, and it was well received. Above is the picture of the group.

Sunday Service on the 18th

I cherish the moment of walking Heidi and Ziggy through the message of 'four steps to draw nearer to the Lord', and of taking each of the four steps together towards a copy of the Word as we went over what each step was. The picture on the right captures that special moment. (Leon was so close to join it as well!)





For the adults' talk, we looked at Genesis chapter 28:10-15 for the topic of 'a stone as the foundation of the life of our faith.' Afterwards, we had Holy Supper. Below is a picture of the Perth New Church group that gathered.

Cberra Visit (30th -31st)

With this June Issue Newsletter being printed out on the 27th, it won't cover the Canberra visit that technically falls in May. See next Issue for the report.

What's Coming Up

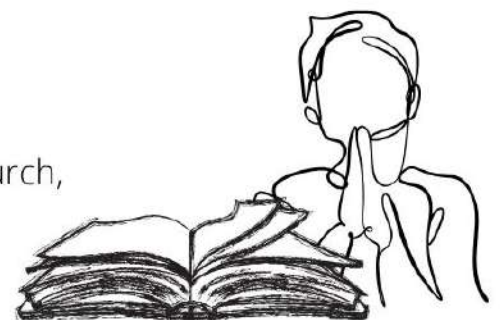


New Church Day

– June 22nd

We'll have our New Church Day service on the 22nd, followed by a potluck launch. As this will be a Family Service, there will be a separate talk for the children during the service. If your family is planning to attend with a child/children, please let the Pastor know IN ADVANCE. It will help organize the service and what to prepare accordingly, if needed. This year, we're not planning an event on New Church Day itself (June 19th). That said, we look forward to making our service on June 22nd a meaningful celebration. Come and join us! Leading up to it, our second and third Sunday services in June will explore topics that are relevant to the idea of 'What is church?' It is hoped that these will build up our thoughts about why we celebrate New Church Day.

June 19th is the celebration of the founding of our church, dating all the way back to 1770.





Pastor Attending the Clergy Meetings

The Pastor will be attending the Clergy Meetings in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, USA, from June 23rd through 30th. Thus, Sunday Service on the 29th will be a lay-led service.



Friendly reminder about our next donation drive for The Kogarah Storehouse: We're collecting non-perishable food and toiletry items to support individuals in need within the wider community, now through June 22 (We might extend the deadline). Every little bit helps. Donations can be dropped off at 22 or 24 Dudley Street, Penshurst. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



The NCIA Retreat in January 2026 (15th to 19th)

It is not too late at all to BOOK it! Please take a look at the flyer below about the NCIA Retreat 2026. If you need help in booking or have questions about eligibility and availability of the subsidy, contact Carolyn at nciaretrear@gmail.com

NCIA Retreat 2026

Alexandra Park, Sunshine Coast, Queensland



Please scan the QR code to register to make a booking.

Bookings are not confirmed until a deposit is received.



NCIA Retreat 2026
Booking Form

Thursday 15th to Monday 19th January

This retreat will be held from Thursday dinner to Monday 10.00am. Alexandra Park is located at Alexandra Headland within minutes walking distance to the beach.

The Bungalow accommodation is all air conditioned with ensuite bathroom, mini fridge, TV and an outside deck. Each room has a double bed, single bunk beds, or single bed and can sleep 5 or 6 people.

Twin share rooms (private room for two) are available but are limited so book in quickly.



Example of bungalow rooms

Prices are per person and include all meals.

Adult Twin share \$720.00	Student (14-17) \$500.00
Pensioner Twin share \$700.00	Student (9-13) \$400.00
Adult Shared \$680.00	Child (5-8) \$350.00
Pensioner Shared \$650.00	Child (3-4) \$200.00
Linen Hire \$36.00 per set	Baby (0-2) Free

Subsidies may be available on request

Day Visitor costs - per person

No meals - \$32.00 (only for special diets not able to accommodate)

All meals - \$100.50 (Breakfast, morning tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner, Supper)

Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea - \$55.60

Main Meal only \$51.25

ALEXPARK.COM.AU

Alexandra Park Conference Centre has a website where you can do virtual tours of the rooms, meeting rooms and dining room.

If you have any questions please direct them to nciaretreat@gmail.com





to Angela Caldwell and Michelle Heldon (8th), June Kirsten (9th), Izaak Horner (17th)

NB: The Newsletter will continue to feature more images and pictures of community activities. I believe this will bring the message for and the vibrancy of our community each month much better. One challenge with mailing the Newsletters, though, is that people may have not the full benefit of seeing the images in full colour as colour printing costs significantly more. The alternative is that you can choose to have it emailed as a PDF, which will give the access to our Newsletters in full colour.

If you'd want to receive it this way, let me know. For those who will be getting their Newsletter mailed, no worries. You will have at least a portion of Newsletter be printed in colour. For example, this Month's Newsletter will highlight our Mother's Day service.

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