

**Lesson 32: SPIRITUAL TREASURE**  
**Matthew 6; *True Christian Religion* 238**

**Text:**

“A Casket of Jewels” by Amena Pendleton; *True Christian Religion* 238; Matthew 6. (See attached story.)

**INTRODUCTION:**

I’m going to start today with a short story by Amena Pendleton, a New Church author. It is called “A Casket of Jewels.” As she wrote this story, Miss Pendleton knew about the reality of spiritual jewels, and spiritual treasure, which I will talk about more during today’s project.

**READINGS:**

NOW READ “A CASSET OF JEWELS” FROM THE BOOK, *THE GOLDEN HEART*, BY AMENA PENDLETON.

In the Word, the Lord talks about treasure. In Matthew 6, He said:  
Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

**DISCUSSION:**

WHEN THE STORY IS FINISHED, GET THEM STARTED ON THE PROJECT, TELLING THEM TO WORK QUIETLY WHILE YOU TALK MORE ABOUT SPIRITUAL TREASURE.

But what does the Lord mean here? The Lord is telling us something important. Earthly treasure, like money and other riches and possessions, can be useful for life here on earth. But if we make earthly treasure the most important thing in our life, we are going to be disappointed. As the Lord said, earthly riches can become old and ruined, lost or maybe stolen. And when our life on earth ends, they won’t matter at all.

The Lord wants us to save up treasures that will last forever -- heavenly treasures. Heavenly treasures are things that we learn from the Word that can make our lives better and happier. If we learn and do the things that the Word teaches, we will have better friendships, better experiences in our work and play, and better lives all around. And these heavenly treasures can never become old and ruined, or lost, or stolen. These heavenly treasures will come with us into the spiritual world when we die.

The true ideas in the Word are like spiritual jewels. One precious jewel is: “We don’t just turn into nothing when we die. We begin a new life in heaven.” Another jewel is: “The Lord loves us constantly no matter what, and is always ready to forgive us when we’ve done wrong.” Knowing these things makes life better, and makes our spirits richer.

*NOTE:* If teacher wants, he/she could ask the kids to think of other “jewels.”

Some of the spiritual jewels in the Word are easy to recognize. Other are more deeply hidden in the stories, like hidden treasure. We can recognize more and more jewels as we grow. Angels can see many more spiritual jewels than we can, and for that reason heaven has many more colorful, beautiful jewels to look at than earth does.

**Lesson 32 - Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School, page 2**

The picture you're making today is about something Swedenborg wrote down in his book, True Christian Religion:

**The stories of the Word are like a treasure chest, where precious stones, pearls, and diadems lie in order. When people read the Word and believe it to be holy, their thoughts are like someone holding a treasure chest in his hand, and throwing it up toward heaven. As it goes up, the chest opens, and the precious things in it are seen by the angels, who are deeply delighted in seeing and examining them.**

**TREASURE IN THE WORD PROJECT**

**Supplies:**

Poster board, large piece gold paper, small pieces of shiny colored paper, glue, black marker, skin colored crayon.

**Ahead of Time:**

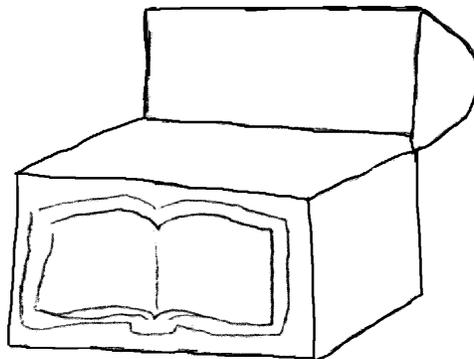
Trace and cut treasure chest out of gold paper.

Trace and cut Word cover and pages out of red and white paper.

*NOTE: The patterns included in this lesson are small, so that they fit on these pages. Feel free to enlarge them to a size that fits your poster.*

Photocopy quote from TCR 238 and cut it out.

Glue these things onto the poster board approximately like this:



**QUOTE**

*Note:* If you have a few Sunday School classes to fill with this project, the above steps could be done in class; however, I think the children will most enjoy the following steps.

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**Procedure:**

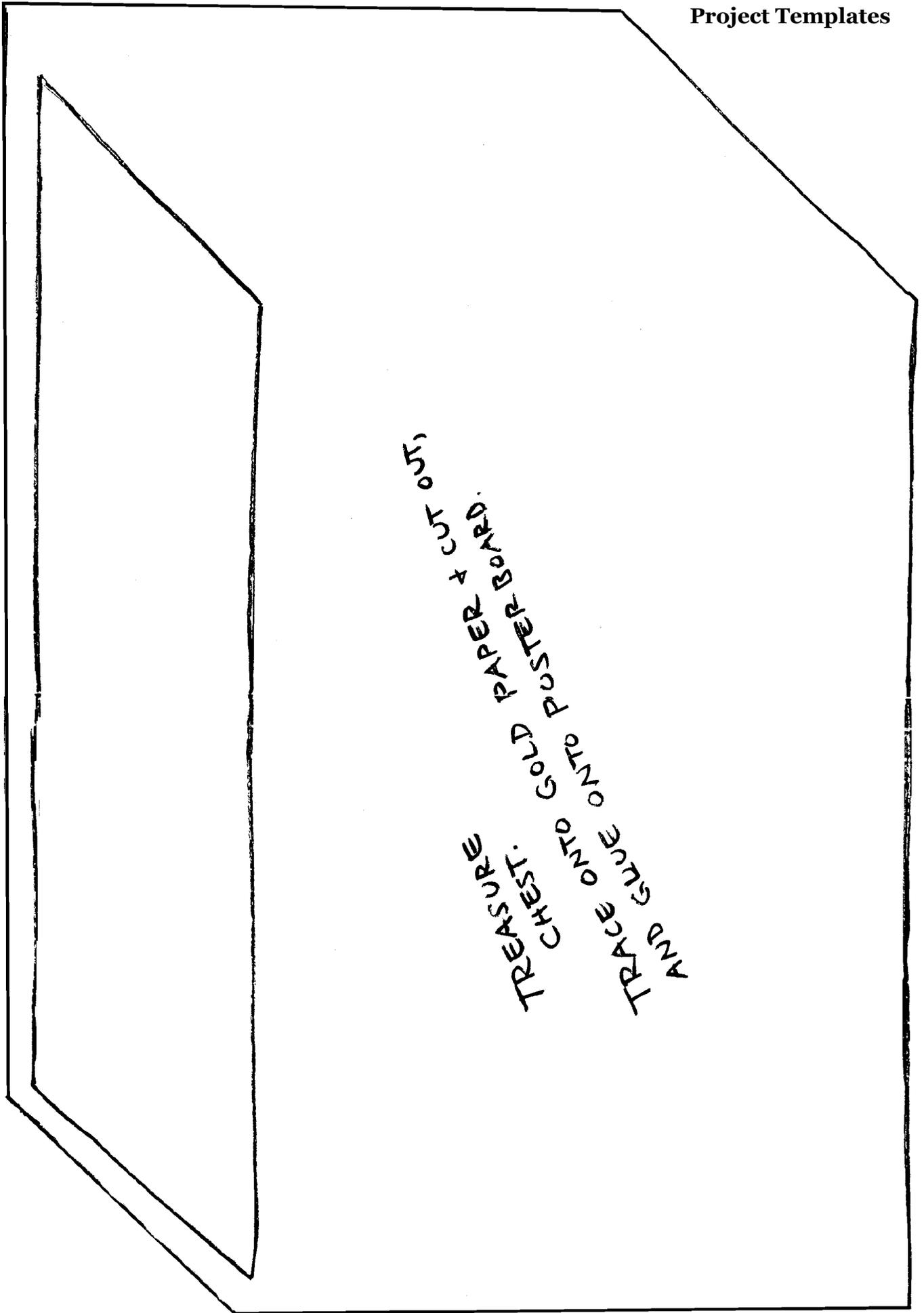
- 1) Read "Spiritual Treasure" lesson.
- 2) Have the children cut from the leftover gold paper and the shiny colored paper shapes to make into precious stones, jewelry, and diadems (crowns). These they will glue onto the poster as if they are coming up out of the treasure chest.
- 3) Trace an outline of one of the children's hands underneath the treasure chest, as if the hand is throwing the chest upward.. Color in the hand.
- 4) Have someone copy the following quote onto the open pages of the Word:

"I rejoice at Your Word  
As one who finds great treasure." (Psalm 119:162)

- 5) (Optional): If there is time, someone could write or cut letters for a title at the top of the page: **TREASURE IN THE WORD**

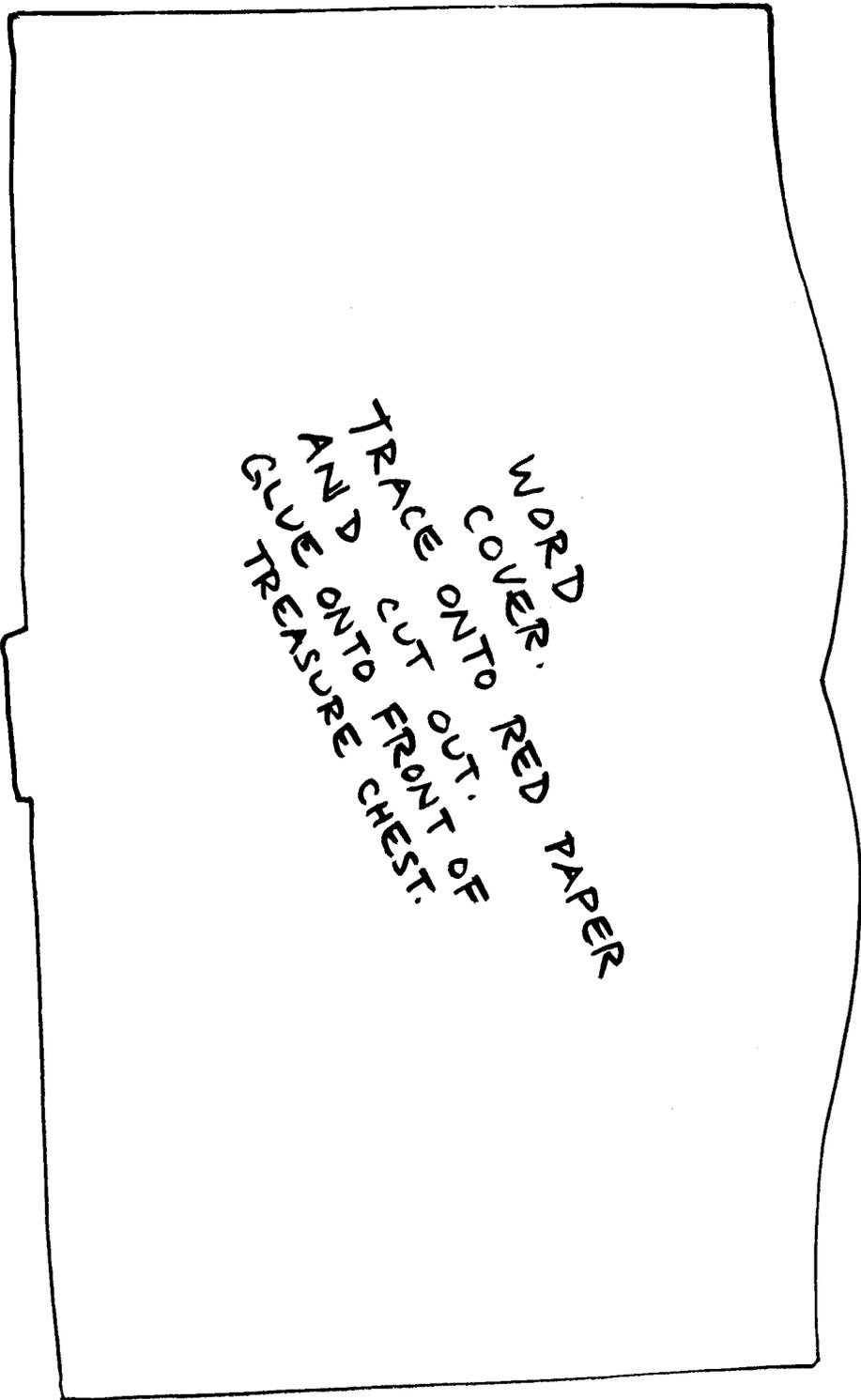
*(Photocopy and cut out this quote and then glue onto the poster.)*

The Word in the letter is like a treasure chest, where precious stones, pearls, and diadems lie in order. The thoughts of a person's mind, who regard the Word as holy, and who reads it... may be compared to one holding such a chest in his hand, and throwing it up toward heaven. As it goes up, the chest opens. And the precious things in it are disclosed to the angels, who are deeply delighted in seeing and examining them. *True Christian Religion 238*



TREASURE  
CHEST.  
TRACE ONTO  
GOLD PAPER BOARD.  
AND GLUE ONTO  
POSTER BOARD.  
CUT OUT.

LID OF TREASURE  
THE TREASURE  
CHEST ONTARIO  
TRACE  
GOLD  
PAPER



WORD  
COVER.  
RED  
PAPER  
TRACE  
CUT  
OUT.  
FRONT  
OF  
TREASURE  
CHEST.  
AND  
GLUE  
ONTO

PAGES OF THE  
WORD. WHITE PAPER  
TRACE ONTO OUT.  
AND CUT OUT RED WORD  
GLUE ONTO COVER.



## THE CASKET OF JEWELS

by Amena Pendleton

In ancient times there lived a Goldsmith named Coniah. All his life long he had loved two things: he loved to fashion beautiful and intricate ornaments of gold, and he loved to read the Word of God.

At the time of our story he was poor and old and had no gold with which to work, but he still had the Word of God. This he read daily, he called it his Casket of Jewels.

One night he was sitting in his little hut reading the Word by the light of a small wax candle. All about him was darkness, but the light shone on his white beard and happy face. For Coniah was happy; he was reading about the Messiah being born into the world to save men.

He forgot that he was poor and old and alone in a little dark hut. Nor was he really alone, Angels were about him, though he knew it not, for he did not hear the rustling of their robes. All was quiet.

Suddenly his happy thoughts were disturbed by a loud noise without. Some one was pounding on the door. It was burst open by three Robbers; they rushed in and seized Coniah. One pulled the cap from his head and another beat him with a stick, and shouted in his ear: "Where is thy Casket of Jewels, old man?"

Coniah looked at the little Book and said: "I pray you, Sir, do not take it from me."

And the Robber said, "What! *that!*" and cast the Word of God upon the ground.

Then loud thundering was heard, and the hut shook as with an earthquake. And lo, an Angel stood in the doorway.

His bright presence filled the room with light, and an odor as of a thousand flowers passed before their faces. His tunic was of cloth of gold, and it was girded about the waist with a scarlet girdle. His eyes shone with the brightness of the stars, and his glance was very terrible. He looked at the tormenters and his eyes flashed as a two-edged sword drawn from its sheath by a hero.

The Robbers could not bear his fiery glances; for when he looked at them they fell to the ground and swooned away with fear. Nor could they rise until he looked elsewhere.

The Angel saw the little Book lying on the ground, and quickly he stooped and picked it up. He said to Coniah, "Peace be with thee, Coniah."

Then the Robbers felt that terrible glance lifted from them, and they arose quickly and departed from the hut of Coniah into outer darkness.

And when Coniah saw them leave he said to the Angel (not knowing he was an Angel): "Sir, tell me thy name, that I may do thee honor."

But the Angel answered, "Why askest thou thus after my name seeing it is secret?"

Then the Angel turned and left Coniah and departed, and the bright light went with him, but the odor of flowers remained.

Then Coniah looked before him to the table where the Word of God lay, and behold, beside the Word he saw a Casket of gold curiously wrought. He took it up in his hands and opened it, and lo, it was filled with precious jewels—pearls, rubies, and bright diamonds. And they sparkled as the lamps of heaven.

Then Coniah knew that he had been visited by an Angel of Heaven, and he fell upon his face and worshipped God, and said: "Lord, let Thy servant live, for I have looked upon the face of an Angel of God."

And the Lord heard Coniah's prayer, for he lives now; and is himself an Angel of Heaven.

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**Author's Note on "The Casket of Jewels":** "The beautiful idea that the Word of God is like a casket of jewels is expressed in *The True Christian Religion* [one of the books of the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church given through Emanuel Swedenborg], number 238. The incident of Coniah asking the angel's name is taken from Judges 13:18. The name Coniah means, strength of the Lord."

**"The Casket of Jewels" and the author's comments are from pages 19-23, and 77 of *The Golden Heart and Other Stories* by Amena Pendleton, illustrated by Eudora Sellner, published by the General Church Press, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, 1987. Used by permission.**