



ANGELS & DEMONS MINI SERIES PART 2: ANGELS

ICEBREAKER |

What is your favorite type of movie to watch?

INTRODUCTION |

You might love action movies, laugh at comedies, or get wrapped up in a drama. But one type of movie that is very popular today is the supernatural. So many are curious about it. They may not say they believe in angels and demons, and they mostly don't talk about it. But the unseen, unknown spiritual realm still fascinates almost everyone. Angels are just one type of spirit being that we can't always see, but we know are there. In this lesson, we will find out why God created them and how they can help us.

READ I

Most of what we think of about angels comes from movies, books, and even pictures that don't have a solid grounding in the Bible. Instead of relying on what we think we know, we should go to the source – scripture – to find truth.

What are the angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by Him to help those who are to receive salvation. Hebrews 1:14 (GNT)

Angels are spiritual beings created by God to serve Him and His people. And they have three primary roles

1) Angels are Worshipers

Psalm 103:20 (NLT) says *"Praise the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who carry out His plans, listening for each of His commands."* Angels are instructed to worship God night and day, day and night. They never stop praising God!

2) Angels are Warriors

Sometimes angels have to go to war. In fact, Revelation 12:7-8 (NLT) describes it in this way: *"Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven."* This tells a story about how God's angels fought against the devil and his demons.

3) Angels are Messengers

The very word "angel" literally means messenger. They are sent to give us the words of God. Galatians 3:19 (NLT), in fact, says that they were the ones who gave Moses the Law on Mt. Sinai.

Duties assigned to angels include, communicating messages from God, glorifying and worshipping God, recording every person's actions, strengthening, fighting for us, protecting us and guiding a person's soul at the time of death to Heaven.

Please review the various roles of angels mentioned. Share one that encourages or intrigues you.

READ |

What do you think of when you hear the word “angel?” Maybe you picture a woman, a little baby, or even a tall human with wings. But the truth is a little bit different than that. Take a look at this passage from scripture:

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

Angels have various descriptions based on scripture but they can also be in the form of a human being, just like you and me. Angels, as spirit beings and servants of God, exist in the spirit realm but can also appear on earth as well. And when they do, they often go unnoticed.

It’s easy to think that “angel” is just how we talk about someone who helps another. We might say, “She was such an angel to bring me soup when I was sick.” However, they are actual spirit beings as well. And no matter what they look like, they live to serve both us and God.

Are you motivated to serve knowing that God’s angels exist to do just that? Will you look out for strangers more often now, knowing you may be helping one of God’s angel servants on an important mission?

READ |

These servants of God are meant to fight for us and protect us. Read the following scripture together:

For He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go. Psalm 91:11 (NLT)

When you picture angels as little naked babies with little wings, it’s hard to get a sense of how they can protect you. But thankfully, real angels are nothing like that. In fact, often times in the Bible, when an angel shows up people are scared. There is something fierce and powerful about the presence of angels. That’s because of who they represent – God!

How do you think angels protect us? Have you ever experienced God's supernatural intervention of protection in your life?

READ I

Angels are meant to protect us, but also to strengthen us. As servants of God and His people, angels have a way of helping us when we are at our weakest.

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest and crucifixion, He was in great distress. Then, God did something incredible. He sent an angel to strengthen His Son:

Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Him.

Luke 22:43 (NLT)

How do you think angels can strengthen us? (They can strengthen when we are tired physically, emotionally and spiritually.) Do you ever ask God to send an angel to strengthen you? Have you ever experienced a time when you were pretty sure that God had sent an angel to provide you physical, emotional or spiritual strength?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, you may encounter a moment that is too difficult for you. We aren't meant to pray to or worship angels, but it's clear we can receive help from them. Here's a few things you can do:

- *Become more conscious of the unseen and sometimes seen angels among you.*
- *Ask God to send an angel to minister to you through strengthening, a message and protection.*

ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS (Optional):

- Do at least one (1) SOAP Devotions this week
- Share with your group one of your SOAP Devotions from this past week
- Invite a friend to join our small group next week.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we love that You have created and designed angels to serve us. Thank You for highlighting the specific scripture verses to help us understand their purpose and role in our lives as believers. We are comforted to know that they fight for us and protect us from evil. Their worship to You as described in Revelations 7 encourages us to submit and worship You, Abba Father! What a joy it is to have such powerful spiritual beings that You send to minister to us in times of need. We receive Your blessing in any way You want to give it to us. And when we encounter strangers this week, help us remember to be kind to them because they may just be Your servants. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1: *In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; He saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear Him.*
Psalm 34:6-7 (NLT)

Day 2: *But even though my condition tempted you to reject me, you did not despise me or turn me away. No, you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God.*
Galatians 4:14 (NLT)

Day 3: *We must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm.*
Hebrews 2:1-2 (NLT)

Day 4: *"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*
Luke 15:10 (NIV)

Day 5: *And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshipped God. They sang, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen."*
Revelation 7:11-12 (NLT)

DURING THE WEEK

Find Time To Read God's Word



The Power of Feeding on God's Word Daily

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

As we read God's word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing daily devotions re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Doing devotions is an excellent way to record, process, and share what God is speaking to you. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget God's promises and some very important life lessons! While doing devotions is a very personal time with the Lord, you may want to share some of your daily devotions with your family, friends, co-workers, or small group. Through discussion, you may be able to look deeper into what God is speaking to you, gain new insights, and even encourage others.

Sample Devotion

SCRIPTURE

"If you do not carry your own cross and follow Me, you cannot be My disciple."
(Luke 14:27)

OBSERVATION

Self-sacrifice is a prerequisite for discipleship. Self-centeredness has no place in the life of a Jesus follower.

APPLICATION

It can be hard to focus less on self and more on Jesus, but when we do we are living out the very commands of Jesus.

PRAYER

God, help me to live a selfless life by always focusing on what You want instead of what makes me happy, comfortable, and content. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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