

This midweek study will explore the biblical teaching on angels. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Angels

Besides the creation of humanity and animals, the Bible also speaks of other beings that God created—angels, who are also referred to in Scripture as “sons of God,” “holy ones,” “spirits,” “principalities,” and “powers.” In the original languages of the Bible, the word “angel” carries the meaning of a messenger, which indicates one of their primary reasons for existence. Angels carry out a number of other functions throughout Scripture: bringing God glory, carrying out God’s plans and purpose, and reminding humanity that the unseen world is real.

1 Angels are currently above us but will later be below us (1 Cor. 6:3; Heb. 2:6-7).

- ▶ Why do we tend to think angels are more powerful than human beings?
- ▶ What are some things you know are true about angels? How do you know they are true?
- ▶ When do you think were angels created? Do we really know?
- ▶ What do you think angels look like? Do we really know?

Read Hebrews 2:6-7.

- ▶ According to the text, who is the higher being right now, angels or human beings?
- ▶ According to the text, will this arrangement always be the case?
- ▶ When do you think this arrangement will change?
- ▶ In what sense do you think we will be higher than angels?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:3.

- ▶ Why do you think God bestows this remarkable privilege on us?
- ▶ What is the proper reaction to this privilege of being higher than angels? Pride? Boasting? Responsible stewardship?

2 Angels exist to serve God and us (Ps. 103:20; Heb. 1:14).

- ▶ Imagine you were supposed to be a substitute angel for a day. What kind of jobs do you think you would be doing?

Read Psalm 103:20.

- ▶ According to this text, what do angels do?
- ▶ What are some appearances of angels in the Bible? List as many as you can.
- ▶ What jobs did the angels do in each of these appearances?
- ▶ It’s safe to say that angels serve God. What do you think their role is toward Christians?

Read Hebrews 1:14.

- ▶ According to this text, whom do angels also serve?
 - ▶ How might these angels minister to Christians?
- Remember the Bible isn’t perfectly clear here, so we shouldn’t be rigid.

- ▶ What response ought we have, knowing angels serve us?
- ▶ How should this hope embolden us to risk and to sacrifice for Jesus?
- ▶ How should the idea that angels serve us make us treasure Jesus even more?

3 We are the particular recipients of grace in a way angels are not (1 Pet. 1:12).

- ▶ If you could choose, would you rather be an angel or a human being? Why?
- ▶ Between angels and man, who do you think has a better experience of God’s love?

Read 1 Peter 1:12.

- ▶ According to the text, who has been given a more particular revelation of the gospel?
- ▶ Why do you think the angels desire to look into the things that we have heard and experienced?
- ▶ Why do you think human beings receive this particular blessing when angels do not?
- ▶ Between angels and men, which was created in God’s image?
- ▶ Did Jesus become incarnate as a man or as an angel?
- ▶ As Christian human beings, we have experienced a grace that angels can only wonder at. How should this particular grace affect us?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ How can we guard ourselves against getting too caught up in angel-fixation? How should the little information the Bible gives about angels compel us to a greater love of Jesus and love of people?