

This midweek study will explore what the Bible teaches on angels and demons. 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 and Demons

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.

Demons are angelic beings who sinned against God and now continually work evil in the world today (Job 1:6; Zech. 3:1; Luke 10:18). Demons oppose God and seek to destroy His work, as seen in the Bible’s description of Satan, the head of demons, who seeks to “steal, kill, and destroy.” Though demons have power, they are limited by God’s control and can only act within the constraints of what God permits. In the end, all of the demons will be cast into the lake of fire, for which it was originally created.

1 Angels are ministering spirits who magnify God and serve Christians (1 Cor. 6:3; Heb. 1:7,13-14).

- ▶ *What do you think angels are? What do you think an angel’s job description looks like?*
- ▶ *Why do you think pop culture, both Christian and secular, is fascinated by supernatural beings? How is this interest helpful? How is it harmful?*

Read Hebrews 1:7.

- ▶ *What is an angel’s role?*

Read Hebrews 1:13-14.

- ▶ *What is amazing about this passage? Who do we typically think is higher in the spiritual order, angels or people? According to this passage, which is it? Why do you think this order is? (Hint: What is Jesus’ nature?)*

Read 1 Corinthians 6:3.

- ▶ *What stands out about this verse? Why do human beings receive such a gracious, elevated position? Again, think: what is Jesus?*

2 Angels and demons wield considerable power, especially demons in this present evil age

(Luke 4:5-6; 2 Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4; Rev. 22:8).

- ▶ *What would you do if you met an angel?*

Read Revelation 22:8.

- ▶ *What did John do when he met an angel? Why do you think he did this? What conclusions can we draw about angels from this verse?*
- ▶ *If angels are powerful, are demons also powerful?*

Read Galatians 1:4.

- ▶ *What did Paul call the world’s current status? Why do you think he described it this way?*

Read 2 Corinthians 4:4.

- ▶ *What did Paul call Satan in this verse? Why? What does it communicate about his power in this present evil age?*

Read Luke 4:5-6.

- ▶ *What kind of power does Satan wield here? How much?*
- ▶ *How do you think Christians should react to this revelation of Satan’s power?*

3 Believers don’t need to fear demons, because they are subject to Jesus’ power (Matt. 8:28-29; Luke 11:20-26).

- ▶ *In a fight, who would win: Vin Diesel or Chuck Norris? (You can substitute other tough guys if you like.)*
- ▶ *In a fight, who would win: Jesus or demons? How close would the match be?*

Read Matthew 8:28-29.

- ▶ *How tough did the demons make these guys (v. 28)?*
- ▶ *What was their attitude toward Jesus (v. 29)? Who is clearly the more powerful?*
- ▶ *Should followers of Jesus fear demons?*

Read Luke 11:20-26.

- ▶ *Who is the strong man (vv. 20-23)? Who is the One who plunders him? What does the Plunderer take?*
- ▶ *What is the point of the story in verses 24-26? How can we make certain that when a demon comes knocking at our house, he finds it well-guarded?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *Ask each student to finish the following sentences:*
 - ▶ *Angels are cool because...*
 - ▶ *Demons are not cool because...*
 - ▶ *Jesus is way cooler than either angels or demons because...*