

Lesson 5

Who and What Are Angels?

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Making God Real

The Making God Real series covers the doctrines of God and the Fundamental Beliefs of United Church of God with the purpose of addressing the essential questions of life. These Family Study Guides are created to help parents review and better understand the basics of God's doctrines—then have family discussions on those topics. Use the portions of the guides that are the most helpful and meaningful to your family.

Objectives:

- Help your family understand that angels are spirit beings created by God.
- Help your family explain the purpose for angels.
- Discuss how angels help to show the depth of God's love for us.

As you are studying the scriptures, to help make God real, there are important things to keep in mind regarding angels:

God made angels to help mankind achieve His goal to become spirit-born children in His plan.

Hebrews 1:14 (NLT) Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

Who are people who will inherit salvation?

- *Acts 2:38 (GNT)* Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit. 39 For God's promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away — all whom the Lord our God calls to himself.
- *Romans 8:14* For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Say: God cares so much for you that He sends His angels to care for you and help you become part of His great family

Note: We must appreciate God's angels, but be sure to not focus too much on them. Many people in the world get so fascinated with angels that they worship them. It is called "angelolatry" which is excessive honoring or invoking the names of angels. God warns us against that.

Revelation 22:8-9 (GNT) I, John . . . fell down at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things, and I was about to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do it! I am a servant together with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all those who obey the words in this book. Worship God!"

In previous Family Study Guides, we discussed God's purpose for mankind. As Creator, God is creating a family and He created us to be a part of that family.

So what part do angels play in God's plan?

Angels are spirit beings created by God.

Colossians 1:16 (GNT) For through [Christ] God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities.

- God created angels to serve Him and mankind

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

- Angels are servants, not “children” in His family

Hebrews 1:5 (CEV) God has never said to any of the angels, “You are my Son, because today I have become your Father!” Neither has God said to any of them, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son!”

God uses angels to help us become part of His family.

- Angels help to protect us.

Psalm 91:9-12 (NLT) If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.

- Angels are serving spirits to help God help us.

Matthew 4:10 (NLT) Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Hebrews 1:14 (NLT) Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

- Angels talk with God about us and do what God instructs them to do.

Matthew 18:10 (TLB) “Beware that you don’t look down upon a single one of these little children. For I tell you that in heaven their angels have constant access to my Father.

Family Discussion

As a small child, your parents probably had you blessed during the “Blessing of Little Children” ceremony at Sabbath services. One of the things the minister prayed was to ask God to give you an angel to watch over and protect you. Discuss some occurrences that happened in your life where an angel might have been involved or had a discussion with God about you.

Luke 1:19 (TLB) Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to you with this good news!

Job 1:6 (NIV) One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.

Psalm 103:20-21 (TLB) Bless the Lord, you mighty angels of his who carry out his orders, listening for each of his commands. Yes, bless the Lord, you armies of his angels who serve him constantly.

- Angels rejoice with God when we do what is right.

Luke 15:10 (GOD’S WORD Translation) So I can guarantee that God’s angels are happy about one person who turns to God and changes the way he thinks and acts.”

Family Discussion

Think of a time when you think God and the angels would have really been happy with you!

- Angels act as God’s messengers.

Acts 27:23 (NCV) Last night an angel came to me from the God I belong to and worship. 24 The angel said, ‘Paul, do not be afraid. You must stand before Caesar. And God has promised you that he will save the lives of everyone sailing with you.’ 25 So men, have courage. I trust in God that everything will happen as his angel told me.

- Angels help fight our battles.

Exodus 33:1 (NCV) Then the Lord said to Moses, “You and the people you brought out of Egypt must leave this place. Go to the land that I promised with an oath to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give that land to your descendants.’ 2 I will send an angel to lead you, and I will force these people out of the land:

Psalm 34:7 (NLT) For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Read and Discuss

Read the story about angels in 2 Kings 6:8-22. Then, read the following articles and discuss God’s undoubted intervention with modern day Israel:

- elijahmantle.typepad.com/blog/2009/11/miracles-during-the-6-day-war-in-1967.html
- israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/122435

Test Your Knowledge About Angels

These questions are intended to check the parent and older teens’ understanding of the topic. There the best answer to each question.

1. Which of these statements is true?

- The angels’ job is to rule over mankind
- Angels have always existed
- All angels are good
- No one has ever seen an angel
- None of the above

2. Which of these statements is true?

- Angels all look alike
- Angels look like babies with wings
- Angels are really just nice people who do good things
- Angels are there, in part, to help God help us

3. Which of these statements is true?

- Angels are very powerful
- We are supposed to pray to angels
- God sometimes sends angels to protect us
- There are many millions of angels

Additional resources for your family studies

• *Beyond Today Program: “In Search of Angels and Demons”* by Gary Petty. *Who are these angelic hosts of the spirit world, and what does their existence mean for you?* Tune in to find out.
ucg.org/beyond-today-program/doctrinal-beliefs/search-angels-and-demons

• **Teen Bible Study Guide:** *What Is Your Destiny?*
ucg.org/bible-study-tools/teen-bible-study-guides/what-is-your-destiny

• **Sermon:** “Our Relationship with Angels” by Randy Schreiber.
There are millions of angels as a part of God’s creation. But what do they have to do with us? Do we have a relationship with angels? Should we have a relationship with angels? What part will angels play in God’s plan once the “firstfruits” become “sons of God” in the world tomorrow?
ucg.org/sermons/what-is-our-relationship-with-angels

Instructor’s Notes and Resources

Cubing Activity

Display six questions based on the family guide. Divide children into groups of 2-4. Each group has one die. Each child takes a turn rolling the die and answers the question with the corresponding number. If a number is rolled more than once the student may elaborate on the previous response or roll again.

Inside-Outside Circle Activity

Inside and outside circles of students face each other. Within each pair of facing students, students quiz each other with questions they have created/written about angels. Outside circle moves to create new pairs. Repeat.

The questions on page 6 may be used as a pre-and post-assessment.

Name:

Date:

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Provide 2-3 sentence answers for each of the following questions.

Challenge: Include a relevant scripture.

How would you describe angels?

What is the purpose of angels? What do angels do? Is there anything that angels to NOT do?

What else have you learned about angels?

Why are angels important to you?