

Activity: Angels Are Powerful



Teaching Goal: God's powerful angels command respect and fear.

**FAMILY TIME
TRAINING**

Scripture: Joshua 5:14 Joshua has crossed the Jordan river and entered the promised land. He meets an angel of the Lord. Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence.

Luke 1:11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to {Zechariah, John the Baptist's father}...When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid."

Luke 1:29 Mary was greatly troubled at {the angel's} words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid."

Luke 2:9 An angel of the Lord appeared to {the shepherds}, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified but the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid."

Materials: Large picture of powerful angel (included)
Sheet with 10 small angel images (included)
Picture or cute angel (included)
Markers, crayons, tape

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. Describe the picture that comes to your mind when you think about angels. In stores, books and even at church we see images of angels. Often, these images are very different from the angels described in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, Joshua crosses over the Jordan River into the Promised Land. As he prepares to attack the city of Jericho, he meets an angel of the Lord. What does Joshua do? Invite a volunteer to read Joshua 5:14. He falls down on his face out of respect for the angel.

In the New Testament, Zechariah the father of John the Baptist, is visited in the temple by an angel. Invite a volunteer to read Luke 1:11. The Bible says Zechariah was gripped with fear. The first thing the angel says is "Do not be afraid."

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When an angel came to Mary to tell her she was going to have the baby Jesus, the Bible says she was troubled by the angel's message. Invite a volunteer to read Luke 1:29. The first thing the angel says is "Do not be afraid."

At the birth of Jesus, an angel appears to the shepherds. Invite a volunteer to read Luke 2:9. The Bible says that the shepherds were terrified at the sight of the angel. The first thing the angel says is "Do not be afraid."

Tell me two common things about angels from these Bible stories. Listen to answers.

1. *The first impression of an angel is one of fear, terror or respect.*
2. *The first thing the angel says is "Do not be afraid." It's like the angel says "Don't worry, I'm one of the good guys."*

B. ACTIVITY #1: I'm going to show you a picture of an angel. I want to warn you that you may feel fear, terror, awe and respect when you see this picture but do not be afraid, this angel is one of the good guys.

From a hiding place bring out the picture of a "cute" angel. Are you afraid? No. Why? Listen to their answers. Although this is a common picture of an angel that we will see in books and stores, it does not represent the type of angel we read about in the Bible.

Angels in the Bible primarily serve two purposes:

1. They are messengers delivering messages from God to people.
2. They are warriors fighting spiritual battles against the evil one.

There is a spiritual battle taking place between good and evil. (Hold up the picture again.) Do you think this is the type of angel God has sent to protect us in the spiritual battle against evil?

I have never seen an angel although I believe they are around us. Here is a picture of an angel who looks more like a warrior who will protect us. This is an angel who might generate feelings of respect, power, fear and awe. (Show the picture of the powerful angel.) If this angel were standing here, bright as a light and ten feet tall, how do you think that would make you feel? Listen and discuss.

C. ACTIVITY #2. We are going to play a game. Here are the rules:

1. The first one to 50 points wins.
2. I am going to show you either a picture of the "cute" angel or a picture of the powerful angel. If I show you the picture of a powerful angel then the first one to drop to the floor gets five points. If I show you the picture of a "cute" angel and you drop to the floor then you lose five points. Like Joshua, we are going to show respect for the powerful angel by dropping to the floor.

3. Have the players stand side by side, with some space in between. Turn your back to the players. Arrange to show one of the two angel pictures then turn around quickly. If it is the powerful angel, then give five points to the first player to drop to the floor. If it is the cute angel, then take away five points from any player whose hands touch the floor.

4. Players may want to repeat the game.

D. ACTIVITY#3: Give each child a copy of the large angel. Talk about what they have learned about angels in the Bible as they color their picture. Give each adult a page of 10 smaller angels to color.

You may not know this, but sometimes at night when you are sleeping I come into your room and say a prayer over you. I ask God to keep you safe, healthy and to draw you closer to Him. Just like you do not see when I come in and pray for you, we do not see the angels that are around us. God sends his angels to protect us. This next week, when I come in and pray for you at night, I am going to tape an angel somewhere in your room. It will remind you that I am praying for you and that God's angels are all around us.

V. Close in Prayer

VI. Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this activity and pass *it* on to another family.





