



QUESTION:
Do angels really exist?

Power Phrase

Angels do exist!

Memory Verse

Luke 15:10, "I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Supporting Doctrines

For supporting doctrines, see our Statement of Faith at novoministries.org/statement-of-faith.

Goals

The child will...

- Learn that angels really do exist!
- Understand the purpose and responsibility of angels!
- Choose to believe that God created angels for His purposes!

Reminders

There is a great fascination with angels. Children wonder whether they exist or not, what they look like, and what their purpose is. While those things will be taught, the key opportunity in this lesson is to share the Gospel and let the children know that when they ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives, the angels will rejoice in Heaven!

Acknowledgements

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The stories and photos shared in the Gospel Presentation Activities are used with the permission of www.iamsecond.com.

Additional Resources

All Large Group or Small Group activity visuals or supply items followed by an asterisk (*) may be downloaded for printing at www.novoministries.org/resource.

Jacob Wrestles the Angel of the Lord

(Bible Story - Genesis 32:22-31)

Visuals

- Bible Story Visuals*

Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group*, poster board, markers

Captivate #1 - Picture It!

- Choose a child or leader to draw elements of the story as you are telling it. The volunteer does not necessarily have to draw well. Even using stick figures can be fun. Focus on adding facial expressions or specific actions for parts of the story.

Captivate #2 - Thumbs Up!

- Stop at different points during the story and ask the children a question that has a “yes” or “no” answer. Ask them to show their answer by putting their thumbs up for “yes” and thumbs down for “no.”

Introduction

- Esau was the older twin son of Isaac and Rebekah. He was the one who would be given the birthright. Jacob was old and going blind. He sent Esau to hunt an animal to cook as a meal for him, and then he was going to bless Esau. While Esau was away, Rebekah schemed with her son Jacob, who was the younger twin, on how they would deceive Isaac so that he would give the birthright and blessing to Jacob instead. Their plan worked, and Jacob received the birthright and his father’s blessing. Esau was furious that his brother had stolen his blessing, and he planned to kill Jacob. Rebekah heard of his plans and sent Jacob away.
- Years later, Jacob had a family of his own and had settled in the land of his father-in-law Laban. When Laban’s feelings changed toward Jacob, an angel of the Lord spoke to Jacob in a dream and told him it was time to go back to his father’s land and to his family. God promised to be with Jacob.

Story

- Retell the story from Genesis 32:22-31.
- See Bible Story Script.

Conclusion

- Jacob saw Esau coming with his 400 men. Jacob went ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times. Esau came running to meet Jacob! He hugged him and threw his arms around his neck, kissed him, and they cried for joy. God was faithful to Jacob and answered his prayers!

Testimony

- Share what you thought angels were like and how you came to know they were real.
- Share a time that you believe that God sent angels to help you in some way.

Challenge

Visuals

- Key Point Visuals*, Power Phrase Visual*, Memory Verse Visual*

Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group*

Introduction

- In our Bible Story, we heard how Jacob wrestled with an angel of the Lord. The angel was sent by God and had a purpose in his encounter with Jacob that night. It wasn't a dream; it was truly an angel! Angels do exist!

Key Points

Angels do exist!

- God created angels. He created all things in the heavens and on earth, whether they are visible or invisible (Colossians 1:16-17).
- Angels are not glorified people. Angels are also not people or babies who have died and gone to Heaven. The Bible talks about how when we get to Heaven we will be met by "innumerable angels" and "the spirits of the righteous made perfect" (Hebrews 12:22-23). People and angels are different.
- Angels are mentioned at least 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the New Testament.
- Angels are ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:14) and do not have physical bodies like people do (Luke 24:37-39). They can take on the appearance of men when they need to, resulting in people sometimes "entertaining angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2). Their appearance also can be "like lightning" and with "clothing white as snow" (Matthew 28:2-4).

Angels have a purpose!

- The word "angel" means "messenger." Angels are messengers of God.
- God created angels for a purpose. Many people have their own ideas of what those purposes are. One of those ideas is that everyone has a "guardian angel"; however, the Bible does not say this is true.
- What we do know to be true from God's Word is that He created angels to worship and praise Him (Isaiah 6:1-3), to be messengers (Luke 1:14-19, Luke 2:8-11), to guide (Acts 8:26), to provide for needs (Matthew 4:11), to protect (Daniel 3), to deliver from danger (Acts 5:17-20), to answer prayers (Acts 12:1-17), and to care for believers at the moment of death (Luke 16:22).
- Not all angels are good. All angels were created by God and originally they were in the presence of God and created for Him. However, some angels opposed God under the leadership of Satan and were cast from His presence (Revelations 12:7-9). We sometimes call these fallen angels "demons."

The angels rejoice when we choose to accept Jesus as our Savior!

- One of the amazing things we know about angels is that when someone confesses his sin and asks Jesus to be the Lord of his life, the angels rejoice in Heaven (Luke 15:10).
- The most important decision you can make in your life will cause the angels of Heaven to rejoice!

Challenge (Continued)

Conclusion

- Angels do exist! God created angels at the beginning of time for a purpose. He still uses them today. Although Satan is a fallen angel and tries to fight against God, God is still in control and has power over Satan and will defeat him.

Invitation

For the unsaved child:

- Do you know that asking Jesus to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life is the most important decision you will ever make? God loves you and sent His Son to die for your sins (John 3:16). You can be forgiven for your sins and ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life. The angels in Heaven will rejoice if you make that decision today!
- Invite the children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions or would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their life.

For the saved child:

- Challenge the saved child to think about what he has learned about angels and how God may use angels in his life today.
- Encourage children if they have any questions to stay behind and talk to a leader.



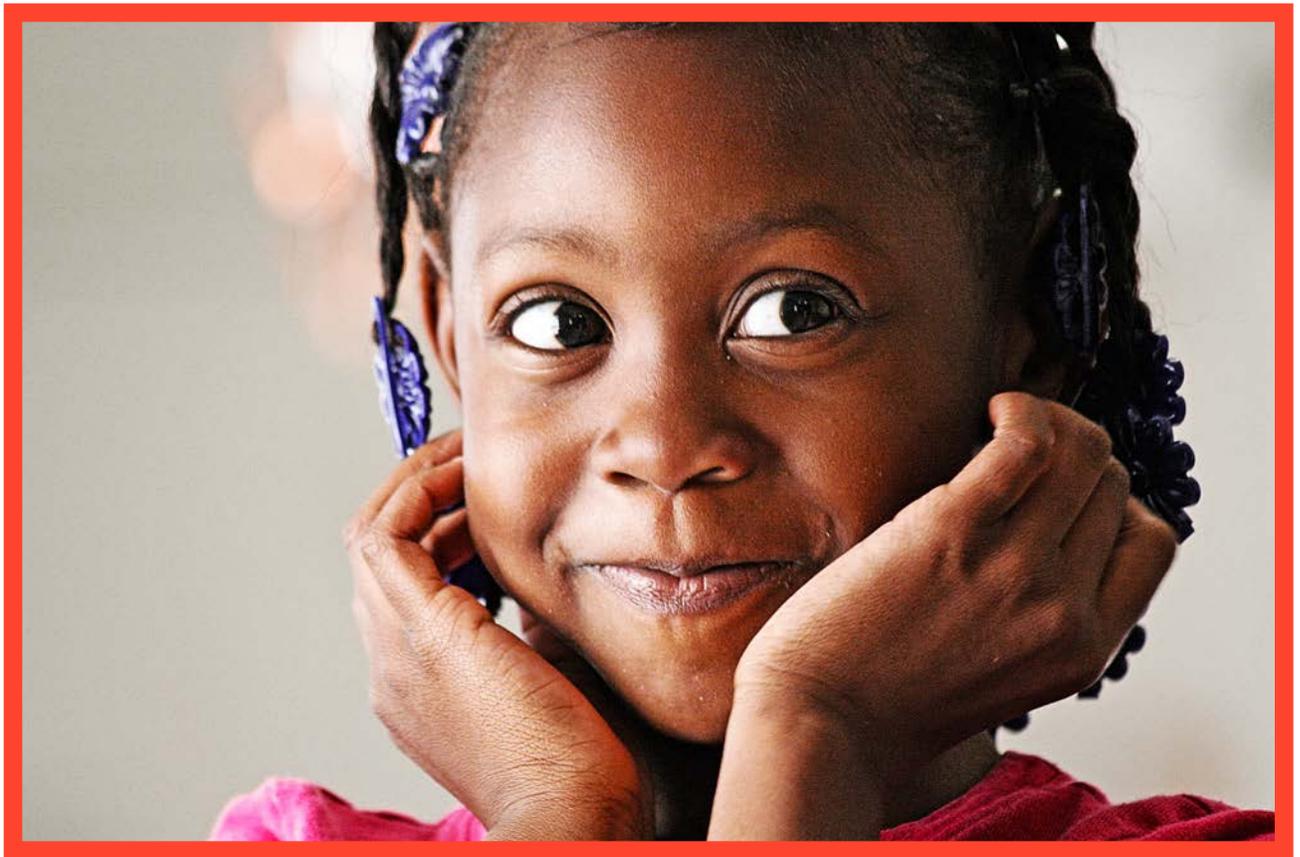
Angels (Arriving Activity)

Visuals

- Picture of angels*

Instruction and Application

- As the children arrive, ask them what they think an angel looks like. Maybe they imagine it to be in a white robe. Maybe it has big wings and a halo. Often angels are portrayed as being female. There are many ways that angels have been portrayed, but they often do not represent what an angel is like based on Scripture. Have the children discuss what they think angels do. Do they just sit on clouds all day playing harps? Are they guardians for a specific person? Do they go to someone who is about to die and take him to Heaven? Throughout the Bible there are different references to angels. While we don't know exactly what they look like, today we are going to learn that angels are real and what God's purposes are for them.
 - Review the Memory Verse together. Luke 15:10, "I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
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Touchdown (Memory Verse)

Visuals

- Memory Verse Visual*, Picture of people cheering at a football game*

Supplies

- Bible, small object

A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic

A — Attention Grabber (Grab their attention with an interesting introduction, and don't let go!)

Ask the children if they have ever been to a football game or watched one on TV. Sometimes the games can get pretty intense. The score can be tied or a team may be behind in points with just seconds left on the clock. What happens when in those last moments the underdog scores a touchdown? People jump to their feet and start cheering and yelling! There is huge excitement and celebration for the team that just scored a touchdown that won the game. The Bible tells us that there is a great celebration by the angels in Heaven when one sinner repents of his sin and asks Jesus to be the Lord of his life. This is the greatest victory there could ever be!

G — God's Word (Show them that the concept you are teaching them comes from the Bible.)

Luke 15:10, "I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

A — Awareness (Make them "aware" of the words and concepts.)

Joy – celebration

Repents – confesses their sin, to turn away from sin

I — In Their Lives (Teach them to apply the lesson "in their lives.")

Unsaved child (questions to ask an unsaved child)

Do you know that God wants to forgive your sins? Are you ready to confess your sins to God and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior?

Saved child (questions to ask a saved child)

You have received the greatest gift, which is salvation. How can you tell others about it? Why should you tell others about this gift of salvation?

N — Number of Times (Repeat the content again and again until the children understand it.)

Read from Scripture. Repeat after me. Play the Memory Game three or four times.

Memory Game

Play Hot or Cold. Hide a small object from one child. While that child tries to find it, the rest of the group quotes the Memory Verse, getting softer when the child gets closer to the object and louder as the child moves farther away. Repeat the verse until the object is found. Have the seeking child say the verse after finding the object.

Gold (Gospel Presentation)

Visuals

- “What’s Your Choice?” and “What to Do Now?” Foundational Gospel Truths Visuals*, Picture of Shawn Johnson*

Supplies

- Bible, paper, writing tools

Instruction and Application

- Shawn Johnson was supposed to be the next great American gymnast and take home a handful of gold medals at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Instead, she won one gold medal and mostly played runner-up, losing the coveted all-around title to teammate Nastia Lukin. Shawn felt like she had failed the world. She felt like if she failed as a gymnast, she also felt like she had failed as a human being. That feeling was confirmed when the person presenting the silver medal at the Olympics leaned in and said, “I’m sorry.”
- That disappointment motivated Shawn to win Dancing with the Stars the next season and fueled a comeback attempt for the 2012 London Olympics. But the pressure to be perfect and to look, act, and be what everyone else wanted her to be took its toll on her. One day while she was practicing, she felt that God was telling her it was okay to put everything behind her and follow her heart. She instantly felt the weight of the world lifted off her shoulders. Shawn chose to retire from gymnastics before the 2012 Olympics to pursue God’s plans for her life, which were for so much more than a gold medal. Shawn says that her greatest reward is not her medals but her relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Just like Shawn, we need to find our identity in Jesus Christ and not in what everyone else expects of us. Shawn learned that she couldn’t be perfect and measure up to the expectations of the world. Those things didn’t matter. What mattered was her relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Shawn made the most important decision of her life when she chose to believe in Jesus and received forgiveness for her sin (Acts 16:31). We can make that choice as well! Use the “What’s Your Choice?” Visual to review.
- Shawn also realized that God was always with her and would never leave her. She didn’t have to be good enough to earn His love and forgiveness. God promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5b-6). Use the “What to Do Now?” Visual to review.

Discussion

- Older Team: Have the children discuss pressures they face and how they sometimes feel like they are not good enough. Remind them that God loves them just the way they are.
- Younger Team: Have the children discuss how much God loves them.
- Quiet Team: Have the children write the word “pressures” and around it in bubbles write ways they may feel pressured that they are not good enough. Also have them write how God feels about them.
- Active Team: Have the children pick a partner and do “Thumb Wars.” The winner shares a pressure they face and where they don’t feel like they are good enough.

Flashback (Review Questions)

Supplies

- Review Questions*

Large Group Review Questions

- Which brother was supposed to receive the birthright? (Esau)
- How did Jacob steal the birthright? (He pretended to be his brother, and his father blessed him instead.)
- Why did Jacob run away? (Esau was angry with him and said he wanted to kill him.)
- Why did Jacob decide to return home many years later? (An angel of the Lord spoke to him in a dream and told him to return home.)
- How many men were coming with Esau to meet Jacob? (400)
- Why did Jacob split his group into two camps? (So that if Esau attacked, one group could escape)
- Who wrestled with Jacob? (An angel of the Lord)
- How long did they wrestle? (All night)
- What did the man (angel) do when he realized he wouldn't win? (He touched Jacob's hip and caused it to twist.)
- What did Jacob say he wanted before he would let the man (angel) go? (He asked the angel to bless him.)
- What was Jacob's name changed to? (Israel)
- What did Jacob do when Esau was approaching? (He bowed down seven times.)
- What did Esau do when he approached Jacob? (He ran to him, hugged and kissed him, and cried for joy.)

Discussion Questions

- How does God use angels today?
 - How can we be strong against the attacks of Satan?
 - What do we know from Scripture about angels?
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Necklace (Craft)

Visuals

- Craft sample*

Supplies

- Butterfly paper clips (one per child), silver beads with large hole (one per child), ribbon (12" length per child)

Instruction and Application

- Give each of the children a butterfly paperclip, a bead, and a piece of ribbon. Have the children fold the ribbon in half and pull the folded end through the center of the butterfly paper clip. Then pull the two ends through the center of the loop created, pull tight, and tie a knot in the ribbon. Slide the bead onto the ribbon at the top of the butterfly paper clip. If the children are having a difficult time getting the ribbon through the hole, trim it to go through more easily. Tie a double knot at the top of the bead and at the end of the ribbon. The result is a beautiful angel necklace to wear.
 - Remind the children that angels do exist. The Bible tells us about them and how God has a purpose for them. Although the necklace doesn't represent what an angel really looks like, it can be a reminder to us that angels do exist. Remind them that when a person asks Jesus to forgive his sins and be the Lord of his life, the angels in Heaven rejoice!
 - Review the Memory Verse together. Luke 15:10, "I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
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What's the Point? (Application Activity)

Supplies

- Paper, writing tools, "What's the Point?" card*

Activity #1

- Give each child a "What's the Point?" card. Discuss the question in this lesson: Do angels really exist? Have the children write the different things that help them know that angels do exist. Then have the children write their answer to this lesson's question and why they believe it. Encourage the children to put into action what they learned today. Maybe they can tell a friend or family member what they learned about how angels exist and the purpose God has for them.

Activity #2

- Have the children take turns acting out different ways they can tell others that angels do exist. If you have a group that is quieter, you could choose to have them draw a picture or make a card for someone instead.
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Now What? (Additional Activity)

Supplies

- Additional Activity #1: Jacob Wrestles the Angel of the Lord Coloring Page*
- Additional Activity #2: Angels Hidden Word*
- Additional Activity #3: The Big Take Away Key Chain*

Instruction and Application

- These activities are to be used with your team as time fillers while reinforcing the lesson concepts. The children can take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don't have time to start another activity.
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