

ANGELS

SUPERNATURAL: THE STRUGGLE IS REAL – PART 3

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- What was one of your first “images/visual” of angels as a child?

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Brainstorm: What are the beliefs/images/caricatures our culture has about angels? Don't stop until you get to 10. (i.e. fairy godmother, etc.)
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Compare and contrast, as best you can, Jesus and Angels in as many ways as your group can. (i.e. Jesus had a body, Angels don't)
- Why is it easier to believe in Satan/evil, but not angels?
- What helps you grasp and better understand that angels are not winged wimps, but warriors not hesitant to kill?
- How do you respond to the biblical truth that angels have, at times, been authorized to destroy and kill?
- Have you ever been kind to strangers, and a few hours later think to yourself that perhaps that wasn't just a stranger? Read Hebrews 13:2
- Have you ever had an encounter when you believe God's warriors were at work, and it wasn't just chance? When did you realize this? Immediately?
- What battles are you currently fighting, that you would like God to fight with you? Before you ask Him, how would this battle, if won, glorify God? Share with the group, they can give you insight into how it could glorify God.
- What reflections do you have when you read that Jesus apparently needed the ministry of angels?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Father, remind me that all I see is not all there is. Thank you for the times you have fought for me and I didn't even know it. Guide me to fight battles that you want won. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- This week when a stranger pops up in your life, look twice.

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)

² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 1:6 (NIV)

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Revelation 5:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

¹² In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

1 Chronicles 21:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead.

¹⁵ And God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But as the angel was doing so, the LORD saw it and was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then standing at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

Revelation 12:7 (NIV)

⁷ And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Judges 6:12 (NIV)

¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

Luke 1:30-31 (NIV)

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:20 (NIV)

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Numbers 22:21-33 (NIV)

²¹ Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab.

²² But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road.

²⁴ Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides.

²⁵ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat her again.

²⁶ Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left.

²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff.

²⁸ Then the LORD opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"

"No," he said.

³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

³² The angel of the LORD asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me.

³³ The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her."

Psalm 91:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

¹² they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Matthew 4:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Luke 22:43 (NIV)

⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.