



## Angels and the Spiritual World

### Outline Plan



#### **Introduction**

All religions recognize the existence of a spiritual world. Mythology from many cultures includes gods, demi-gods, spirits and demons. Christians have always believed in the existence of angels. What does the Bible teach about them?

#### **Aim/s** – select from

- Does a supernatural world exist?
- Especially suitable for 'just looking' groups as a prequel to 'Does God exist?'
- How do I find my guardian angel?
- Very popular within New Age culture so also suitable for unchurched groups
- To see what the Bible teaches concerning the creation and the role of angels.
- Are there such things as demons? Who is the Devil? Where is he from?
- A look at angel stories in the Bible and/or more recent times

#### **Key Bible Verse**

If you make the Most High your dwelling, he will command his angels to guard you in all your ways. Psalm 91:9-11 NIV

For other Bible references see background notes

#### **Resources** – select from

- Find pictures or examples of angel gifts & books from the internet, shops, and/or Christmas catalogues. Try searching 'guardian angel gifts' on google images
- Food option: 'Angel cake' or use angel shaped biscuit cutters
- Angels and demons quiz: photocopy for group or use PowerPoint
- Additional angel stories – written or verbal
- DVD option - Labyrinth scene 27
- Drawing materials

#### **Programme**

Your starting point & running order will depend very much on the type of group you have. This is a mix and match set of suggestions. Be selective.

#### **Food link**

Give out slices of 'angel cake' or angel shaped biscuits. Christmas biscuit cutter sets often have an angel cutter. They could make the biscuits if you want this to be an activity.

#### **Use pictures**

Everyone stops believing in the tooth fairy but what about angels? Look at pictures of angel related gifts such as charms and/or adult books on angels.

Discuss why there is so much interest in them.

Ask if they believe in angels or any other spiritual being.

Do things like this encourage us to trust too much in angels?

Draw some angels (good for younger ones in an all-age group)

**Discuss modern angel stories**

You may have some favourite ones of your own. Some of ours are in the leaders' notes. Some members of your group may have stories of angels or ghosts to share with you.

- Ask if anyone has experienced or heard of stories of angels helping people.
- Share any stories you may know, where angels have possibly been sent by God to help people.
- Do you think that we all have a guardian angel?
- Does it make sense to pray to angels? Can they hear prayers? Is it better to pray to God who commands the angels? We know that God always hears our prayers.

**Discuss angel stories in the Bible**

Perhaps choose one angel story from the Bible to focus on. Possibilities include

- I Kings 19:1-8 – an angel helped Elijah, providing him with food and drink to strengthen him
- Luke 22:39-43 – an angel strengthened Jesus after his temptations & in Gethsemane
- Matthew 28:2-7 – angels rolled away the stone at the tomb
- Acts 10: 1-5 – an angel visited Cornelius in a vision
- Acts 12:6-11 – an angel rescued Peter from prison

**Angels & Demons quiz.** – Use quiz sheets or PowerPoint

This is designed as a user-friendly way of giving them Bible teaching about the spiritual world. If you choose to use the sheets, put the yp in small groups with one sheet between them, let them have fun trying to guess the answers, then teach as you chat through the answers. With the PowerPoint, it could be done as a whole group, giving the answers as you go along.

You may prefer to adapt it and perhaps make a game out of suggesting possible answers to some of the questions. Going through the answers can open up discussions.

Some groups may wish to leave out question 10 as it requires a lot of reading but it would suit groups that like to be stretched.

**Life Application**

(See Leaders' Notes)

- What influence, if any do angels have over our lives?
- Does it work to pray to angels? Can they hear prayers? Is it better to pray to God who commands the angels?
- Is there a difference between an angel and a 'spirit guide'? If we encounter a spiritual being how can we tell whether they are a genuine friend or a fake friend?

**Spiritual reflection time**

Read Psalm 91 out loud with 2 leaders or good readers.

Alternate the reader every couple of verses. We used the Message by Eugene Petersen.

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