

Aim of lesson

To enable the young people to take a more literal view of angels than perhaps they have done before, and to understand more of God's glory manifested through angels.

Bible background

Exodus 3:2, 4, 6, 7; Revelation 19:10; Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14

Preparation required

To become familiar with the passages used in these notes and to provide Leader's auxiliary list. 3 large (A3) sheets of paper and felt-tip markers will be useful to demonstrate points made during the lesson.

Suggested outline of lesson

What or who are angels?

1. How does God communicate with people? On one sheet of paper write 'God' at the top and 'Man and Woman' at the bottom, ask the students to think of as many ways of communication as possible, e.g.: dream, angel, prophet, etc. These words are then written in the gap.
2. God does not NEED the angels, so why does he use them? To show us more of himself; to help us understand him better, etc.
3. Bible stories of angels. Students can list stories, or they might have been asked to think of a list for homework.
4. Attempt a definition of angels. For example: angels are a part of God's energy or Spirit, or power used to
 - honour him in heaven and
 - bring messages to earth.

Are angels the same person as God?

1. Angels are NOT God, but are a part of his power
2. Think of a King or Queen, the boss of a large factory, a head-teacher, etc. People work for them, by helping, serving, etc. Write 'the boss' in the middle of a sheet and put words suggested by students in a circle around the paper.
3. So angels are separate from God, they are NOT God, but they work for him:

Look at Exodus 3:2, 4, 6, 7. It was an angel who spoke to Moses, but he was speaking on behalf of God, and is therefore referred to as LORD and God.

Revelation 19:10 shows the distinction well.

Are angels visible or invisible?

Sometimes angels have been seen as men, but sometimes as lights or some other form which have been instantly recognised as 'An angel'. For example in Luke 1:11-13 an angel appeared to Zacharias, and was known to be an angel straight away, much to Zacharias' anxiety. But the angel who came to Samson's mother was not recognised as being an angel until he had finished his second visit. See Judges 13.

Angels they can be either:

Visible:	Luke 1:26-31	Gabriel talks to Mary
	Luke 2:8-16	Angels talk to the shepherds
Invisible	Exodus 23:20-23	Commented on in Isaiah 63:9

What do angels do and how do they do it?

Here the leader's own list of references is needed. Ideas should be sought from the group, supplemented by the leader's list.

- Appear and disappear
- Come from heaven
- Sometimes look like men

- Sometimes look different from people
- Can rejoice
- Do not marry
- Can be seen by a donkey but not by a man (Balaam)

Relevance to our lives

Do angels have anything to do with us?

At least two important quotations can bring this lesson home to us all.

Psalm 34:7 Angels camp around us

Hebrews 1:14 Angels help us towards the kingdom

Prayer

Dear Lord God, you have shown us that your angels encamp around those who fear you. We confess that too often we are unaware of their presence, and ask for faith to trust in your providence. Amen.

Other suggestions for activities

Read 2 Kings 6:8-18 to understand more about God and his powerful messengers.