

Lesson #2

Hebrews 1:4, 1Kings 19:5&7, Dan. 3:28, Dan. 6:22, 1Cor. 13:1
Sept. 24, 2014

**Bring a picture or figurine of an angel to class to show the children. Tell them that it is just someone's idea of what an angel may look like.*

Some people believe that angels are only pretend; that they're make-believe. But the Bible tells us that angels are for REAL! In fact, the Bible tells us that angels have names. Two of the angels we meet in God's Word are Gabriel and Michael. The Bible also tells us this about angels:

- They have their own language.
- They live forever.
- They protect and rescue us.
- They fight battles.

In the Bible we can find quite a few examples of angels doing God's work. Two are found in the Old Testament in the book of Daniel. In one, an angel appears to three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, as they are thrown into a fiery furnace! King Nebuchadnezzar was angry with the young men because they refused to bow down to his golden idol. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego loved God and would rather die than worship a false God. So, because they disobeyed, the king had them tied up and thrown into the fire. But that's not the end of the story. God sent an angel to protect them so the friends survived. In fact, they were not harmed at all! While in the fire, they were unbound and walked around inside the furnace with the angel next to them. Not one hair on their heads was burned and their clothes did not catch on fire. God performed this miracle and He used an angel. Even King Nebuchadnezzar had to admit that it was God who sent the angel and rescued the three friends.

A couple chapters later in the book of Daniel an angel appears again—this time to Daniel after he is thrown into a lions' den. (Darius was king at this time and he declared that all people bow down and worship him. Daniel, however, would never worship anyone but God so he was thrown into the lions' den.) I imagine that those lions were quite happy to see Daniel. He was fresh meat! Can you give me a few hungry lion roars? *(Let the kids have a minute to get their roars out!)* Boy, you sound ferocious! You sound just like hungry lions. The lions in our story were probably more than ready to have Daniel for dinner, but God had other plans for his faithful servant. The Bible tells us that God sent His angel to protect Daniel. I'm not sure how it happened, but God gave the angel the power to shut those lions' mouths and as a result Daniel was not hurt at all.

There are many more stories from the Bible that feature angels. These true stories are exciting to read and it's fun to imagine what they might look like. But one important thing to remember about angels is this: They are not greater than the Lord. They do important work like delivering news, fighting battles and protecting us, but the Bible says that Jesus is greater than the angels. His name is greater and we are to call upon Him and

not call upon angels. Angels are under the Lord's authority and He sends them to us when and how He chooses.

So, should we pray to angels? No! Do we call out for angels to save us? No! We only call on the name of the Lord, but we can thank Him for His angels and how He uses them for our good and His glory.

Let's thank Him right now. "Dear Lord, thank you for Your great love. Thank you for sending Your angels to protect us even though we may not recognize or see them. You are good to us and Your name, Jesus, is powerful."

Bible verse: "...the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave Him [*Jesus*] is greater than their names." Hebrews 1:4 NLT

Grow At Home #2
Hebrews 1:4, Daniel 3:28 & 6:22
Sept. 17, 2014

Today the children learned these God facts:

- God sends us His angels for our good and His glory
- Jesus is far greater than the angels

Live It Out:

Today we highlighted two different stories in the book of Daniel where God sent an angel to protect His people. The first true story was about Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego and how an angel in the fiery furnace protected them. The second was about Daniel and how God used an angel to close the mouths of lions and keep Daniel safe. Read these stories aloud to your child from a children's Bible. You may want to leave out some key words from time to time and encourage active listening by having him/her fill in the blanks. Point out to your child that in both stories God received glory as the kings believed in Him because of His angels.

Remind your child that although God sends us angels to help and protect us, we are never to worship or pray to them. The Bible tells us that Jesus is much greater than the angels and we are to call on His name only.

Prayer: "Dear Lord, thank you for Your angels that protect us still today. You are good to us and Your name, Jesus, is powerful."

Bible Verse: "...the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave Him [*Jesus*] is greater than their names." Hebrews 1:4 NLT