



Date: _____

Series: Pass the Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 13

God's Special Agents

Primary Scripture: Genesis 18 and 19

Key Verse: Psalm 103:20-22, "Praise the LORD, all his angels, you mighty beings who carry out his orders and are ready to obey his spoken orders. Praise the LORD, all his armies, his servants who carry out his will. Praise the LORD, all his creatures in all the places of his empire. Praise the LORD, my soul!"

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Children are eager to grasp spiritual truths, especially about heaven and the spiritual realm. Today's culture presents a variety of perspectives on spiritual matters such as heaven, angels, and spiritual beings. Kids need to know the truth of God's word on such matters. They need to see the big picture of heaven as a place where a wide variety of heavenly creatures along with glorified saints enjoy the presence of the Almighty God. As well, they need to see that God does enter the affairs of humans and gives us angels who serve him by aiding us. Better than all heavenly creatures is the gift of his own Son, Jesus, by whom we have access to the Father and the kingdom of heaven.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life for us so we might be adopted into his everlasting family and enjoy the presence of God along with all of heaven's company.

Jesus in us: Jesus dwells in us by the power of the Holy Spirit, making us spiritually alive and able to connect with God the Father and his kingdom.

Jesus through us: Jesus ministers through us to others that we, like the heavenly creatures, might continually serve our God.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring the worship symbols forward such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Begin by saying to the kids:

I was reading a book about a guy that was transported and he saw aliens. Here is how he describes them.

"....In the center...were four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like a young bull, the third had a face like a human, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and were covered with eyes, inside and out."
(Revelation 4:6-8.)

Guess what this writer is describing? This is Jesus' disciple, John, as he looked into heaven and saw these magnificent creatures worshipping God. They are heavenly creatures similar to angels.

In the Bible, angels sometimes appear as ordinary men and sometimes as majestic beings. They are heavenly creatures that God created. There are probably as many different kinds of heavenly creatures as there are earthly creatures like you would see in a zoo. The Bible says there are millions and millions of creatures enjoying God and worshipping him.

As a matter of fact, right now, the angels in heaven are surrounding the throne of God and having a huge celebration to worship him. Let's join the angels in heaven as we worship our holy God.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Angels can see all of heaven and earth. One thing the angels can't experience that only we can is God's saving grace through Jesus who gave his life for us humans.

This is a mystery to angels because they saw Jesus, God's Son, in his heavenly glory and can hardly imagine how he gave this up to become like us and to die in our place.

Let's confess our sins and give to God anything we've done wrong this past week and thank him for the gift of Jesus' life and death for which the angels marvel.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

If you were standing before God in heaven right now, what would you give him? We can give God our praise in heaven and here on earth, but while we are here we can also give him our possessions. Let's show God we trust him with all that we have by giving him praise with our offerings.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Seeing the Unseen:

Supplies:

- *several different coins*
- *Adventures in Odyssey video: Someone to Watch Over Me, (Focus on the Family Films, 1996)*
- *whiteboard, poster board, or overhead projector*
- *marker*

The purpose of this game is to show kids that we often overlook the obvious.

Lay down several different coins in a sporadic arrangement and ask kids, **“What’s the number?”** The secret is revealed by the number of fingers you show while placing your hands on your hips.

Let the children make several guesses and then tell them the secret number according to the number of fingers you have showing. Then rearrange coins and have them guess again. Show a different amount of fingers as you stand with your hands on your hips. Do this several times until someone thinks they have cracked the code. Have them come up and be the demonstrator. You can even change the amount or value of the coins. After several minutes explain the game, telling them that they missed the obvious.

The learning point? Maybe there are spiritual beings that are around us that we can’t see. Why? Maybe we are looking in the wrong spot, like in this game. When we don’t believe that God works in our lives and even uses angels, we probably won’t notice when he does.

In the Bible, angels did not appear to those who were not believers. Might an angel appear to one of us? Yes, but according to God’s word, angels are busy working even when we can’t see them. Let’s trust that God is working in our lives in many wonderful ways, even if we can’t see him.

Show the *Adventures in Odyssey* video, *Someone to Watch Over Me*. After the video, write the word “Nagel” on a whiteboard, poster board, or overhead projector. Say:

This is the name of the special agent in this video that helped Dylan. If you mixed up the letters, what word can you spell? That’s right, you can spell the word “angel.” Angels are God’s special agents. They live in God’s presence and work in his service. The word “angel” means “messenger.”

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

The Bible Presentation has been summarized from Genesis 18 and 19.

In the Bible, three strange visitors came to Abraham. They were angels that appeared as men. They told Abraham that he would have a son within a year. And this did happen.

Two of these angels went on to the town of Sodom where Abraham’s nephew Lot lived. The angels protected Lot and his family by blinding some men who were trying to attack them. They also warned Lot to leave the city. God was going to destroy the city, since the people living there were so sinful. The angels told Lot and his family to run for their lives and to run for the hills so that they would not be swept away.

Angels bring messages to God’s people, protect them, help them escape impossible situations, strengthen them, and even fight for them.

Psalm 103:20-22 says, “Praise the LORD, all his angels, you mighty beings who carry out his orders and are ready to obey his spoken orders. Praise the LORD, all his armies, his servants who carry out his will. Praise the LORD, all his creatures in all the places of his empire. Praise the LORD, my soul!”

Application:

Let’s play a true or false game about angels.

True or false?

1) Angels are good people who died and went to heaven.

All who say “true,” raise your hands. Now, all who think this is false, raise your hands. The answer is “false.” *False. Angels are spiritual beings that were created just like us. They were created sometime before the creation of the world.*

2) Angels are cute little fat guys that have halos. They are peaceful and never fight.

False. The Bible never mentions that angels have halos. 2 Chronicles 32:20-21 says angels can be warriors and defeat whole armies.

3) Believers have guardian angels.

True. Psalm 91:11, “He will put his angels in charge of you to protect you in all your ways.” Hebrews 1:14, “What are all the angels? They are spirits sent to serve those who are going to receive salvation.”

4) We should pray to angels.

False. Colossians 2:18 says angels are awesome beings and deserve respect, but they are not to be worshiped or prayed to.

5) Angels have names.

True. The Bible names Gabriel and Michael. Cherubim and Seraphim are names the Bible also uses for angels or heavenly beings.

NOTE: Some of the information used in the above questions was taken from *Kidscordance* of Zonderkidz (The Zondervan Corporation, 1999).



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids tell about a time they prayed for God's protecting angel or knew there was an angel nearby that helped them.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Learning Game:

- several different coins
- Adventures in Odyssey video, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, (Focus on the Family Films, 1996)—order from www.christianbooks.com
- whiteboard, poster board or overhead projector
- marker

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