



# The Work of Angels

## Lesson 8

**Scripture:** Hebrews 1:14; Daniel 4:13; Psalm 148:2-5

**Unit Two:** Satan, Angels, and Demons

**Power Point:** Angels are real and have important jobs to do.

### Today's Challenge

*Discover God's supernatural servants! Participate in these activities so you can learn more about who angels are and what they have been created by God to do.*



#### Step 1

##### Setting the Stage

*List things that work without being seen.*

#### Step 2

##### Searching the Word

*Survey the roles of angels in Scripture.*

#### Step 3

##### Making it Real

*Identify specific ways angels may work today.*

#### Step 4

##### Living it Out

*Join angels in working for God.*



*Special materials or preparation possibly needed.*

## Invisible Guardians

Kidnapping is on the rise in Japan. This is a great concern to parents, since Japanese children often travel as long as two hours by bus or train to get to school. In response to this problem, an elementary school in Tokyo devised special tags to go in students' backpacks. These radio frequency identification (RFID) tags transmit a unique signal for each student. As students pass through the school's front gate, the RFID tags signal that the students have arrived. In just moments, parents receive e-mails indicating the exact times their children got to school.

The Bible talks about other invisible guardians and communicators. The Bible tells us that angels attend to those who serve God, air God's messages, and adore God in the courts of Heaven.

Continued on next page. ➤

## Hide It in Your Heart

May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

—1 Thessalonians 3:13

For a pre-session or take-home activity, memorize this key verse using the puzzle found on your High School Resources CD.

## Hebrews 1

<sup>14</sup>Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

## Daniel 4

<sup>13</sup>"In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven.

## Psalm 148

<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels,  
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the skies.

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.

Permission granted to copy this page with the key verse and lesson scripture for your class. For ministry use only.

# Encountering God's Word

## ATTEND (Hebrews 1:14).

One description of angels is that they are "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). The Bible gives us specific examples of how angels have been sent to aid human servants of God.

After Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Jezebel threatened to kill him. Elijah ran for his life. During that journey into the wilderness an angel saw that he had adequate food, drink, and rest (1 Kings 19:1-9). During Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, Satan tempted Him. After Jesus resisted those temptations, angels came to see to His needs (Matthew 4:11).

**Angels serve those performing God's will on earth**

Later, when Jesus faced His imminent arrest and crucifixion, an angel supplied Him with strength (Luke 22:39-44). When

Herod had marked Peter for execution, an angel appeared to orchestrate a jailbreak (Acts 12:6-10)! The pages of Scripture are filled with examples of the work of God's "ministering spirits"! Because they work invisibly, we do not know for certain how angels have been involved when we have overcome a difficult trial. But we do know that faithful, serving Christians may have "entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). We also know that we can join angels in this task when we "do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

## AIR (Daniel 4:13).

An angel was sent with a message to Daniel in a vision. (The very word angel comes from the Greek word for messenger.) The angel who came to Daniel was called "a holy one, coming down from heaven" and brought a message of God's judgment upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

More than a dozen people in the Bible received a message from God through an angel. When an angel appeared to them, the angel sometimes took a human form. Such was the case when angels came to Lot to warn him about the impending destruction

**Angels help broadcast God's message**

of Sodom (Genesis 19:1, 12, 13). But in the case of Philip the Bible tells us only that an angel spoke to Philip, directing him to go to a

place where he would meet a court official from Ethiopia (Acts 8:26).

A specific angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary to announce that Mary would give birth to the Messiah and that her relative Elizabeth would give birth to a servant of God who would be known as John the

Baptist (Luke 1:26-38). Joseph also learned from an angel that Mary would give birth to the Messiah, but that time the messenger visited Joseph in a dream (Matthew 1:18-24).

So do angels still speak today? How can we be sure that a message comes from an angel? We can't. But we can know whether or not any message is truly from God by comparing it to Scripture. A true angelic message would not contradict the inspired words of the Bible (Galatians 1:8). We can make sure the messages we share about God are true by checking them by the same source.

## ADORE (Psalm 148:2-5).

Finally, angels are worshipers. "Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts" (v. 2). Angels, along with others in creation offer praise to God.

For what do angels give praise? The psalmist says that they praise God for being a creating God (v. 5). We see this truth repeated in the words of God from the book of Job. The creation of this world was described as a time "while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?" (Job 38:7).

Angels also praise God when evil is defeated. Near the end of his life, Moses sang a song about God's justice to the people of Israel. Moses tells the nations to rejoice when God "will avenge the blood of his servants" (Deuteronomy 32:43).

**Angels praise God in the courts of Heaven**

Some ancient manuscripts include a mention of angels worshiping when this takes place. In the book of Revelation we see this repeated often. (See Revelation 18.)

Finally, angels praise God when people turn to Him. As Jesus said in His parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, "There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). The writer of Hebrews is even more vivid in his description of what happens when someone comes to the Lord. "You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, . . . You have come to God" (Hebrews 12:22, 23).

We also have the privilege of being like angels in this way. We can praise God for His creation. We can praise God for His justice. And especially we can praise God when another sinner comes to Him! Properly understood, angels show us how great God really is. Not only has He created the visible universe; He also has created the invisible, spiritual world.

Though it is almost too incredible to grasp, we will share Heaven with these exalted beings. And we can share in their mission by ministering to those who serve God, speaking God's message, and spending time in worship.

Permission granted to make enough copies of this Scripture commentary for your class. For ministry use only.

**Power Point:** Angels are real and have important jobs to do.

Use one of the following activities to help your students list things that work without being seen.

### QUICK STEP The Riddler

When students arrive, have them turn to page 30 in their student books. Listed there are six riddles of things that work without being seen. (If you have a computer available, you may wish to use our digital version of this activity from the *Young Teen Resources* CD rather than the student book.) Give your students time to figure them out. They may work in groups. Go over the answers (electricity, wind, clear tape, sound wave, brain, elves). Then ask: **Do you often think about things that work without being seen?**

Lead into Bible study by saying: **Yes, there are many things in this world that work invisibly. The Bible talks about other invisible, yet powerful forces. We cannot see angels, but God's Word assures us that they are real and working on this earth. Let's look at three duties of angels.**

### Paying the Bills

Bring in a copy of your recent electrical bill and a check made out by you to pay that bill. After all students have arrived, hold up these two items and generate a discussion with these questions:

- **The utility company tells me that they have provided me with (amount of the bill) dollars worth of electricity. But I can't see electricity. How do I know I am paying for something I received? (We can't see electricity, but we can see what it does.)**
- **OK. You convinced me. I have written them this check. It says it is worth (amount of check) dollars. But all I see is a piece of paper worth nearly nothing! How does the company know that this check is valuable? (The bank has a record that you have placed money on account there. Though the money cannot be seen, it is available.)**
- **So a lot of invisible transactions are going on here. What are some other things that work without being seen?**

Lead into Bible study with the final words of the preceding activity.

### The Scene

For an alternative opening activity, check out The Scene™, an activity based on a current headline. Go to <http://forum.standardpub.com/> and click on the "Teaching Methods for Young Teen and High School" forum. A post for The Scene™ for this week will include a free downloadable attachment!



Time

5 minutes

puzzle

Materials

*Young Teen Student* and pens or CD from *Young Teen Resources*



Time

5 minutes

object

Materials

utility bill and a check to pay it



news



Special materials or preparation possibly needed.

## Step 2

## Searching the Word

**Power Point:** Angels are real and have important jobs to do.

Use one of the following activities to help your students survey the roles of angels in Scripture.

### Time

20 minutes

drama

### Materials

*Young Teen Student*, Bibles



### QUICK STEP Celestial Secret Service

Divide the class into three groups. Turn with them to page 31 of their student books. Ask each group to read the lesson text and imagine that one of them is an angel called to give a report to his heavenly superiors. He will prepare to explain how he has fulfilled his assigned duties by referring to biblical “case files” listed with their assignment on that page.

As groups work, move among them to help with their assignments. Explain main points of the text and help them prepare their dramas. The Scripture Commentary will help you.

Have each group present and explain their skits. Comment as necessary to explain the three main points of the lesson text.

Lead into the next section of the lesson by saying: **Angels attend to those who serve God, air God’s message, and adore God in the courts of Heaven. Let’s look at some specific ways angels may be at work around us today.**

### Time

15 minutes

art

### Materials

copies of Sheet 7D from *Young Teen Resources*, pens, Bibles



### Angelic Business Cards

Divide the class into groups of three to five students. Give each group a copy of Sheet 7D. Groups will read the Bible texts and summarize the duties of angels described in each section by creating business cards for angels.

As groups work, move among them and help them with their cards. Use the Scripture Commentary as necessary. When the groups have completed their assignments, allow volunteers to show and explain their work. Comment as necessary to make sure all points are made clearly and completely.

Move into the next step of the lesson with the final words of the preceding activity.

**Power Point:** Angels are real and have important jobs to do.

Use one of the following activities to help your students identify specific ways angels may work today.

## **QUICK STEP** "The Angel Shop"

Distribute the October 24, 2004 issue of ENCOUNTER and have your students read the story titled "The Angel Shop." Then have a class discussion with the following:

- **Today we learned that angels serve God's will, broadcast God's message, and praise God in Heaven. How did the Angel Shop distort the work of angels? Why was the shop's interpretation of angels bad? How could their merchandise lead people astray? Why is it dangerous to adore angels without adoring God?**
- **Were you surprised to find out who the mysterious shopper was? If someone misrepresented you as they did Gabriel, how would you react? How have you seen people misrepresent angels as this shop did? Did you ever think of it as a bad thing before? If people knew the truth found in the Bible about angels, how would their perspectives change?**

**Lead into the last lesson step by saying: Although the world's ideas about angels may be mixed up, we know the truth. And angels' devotion to God is something we should want to imitate.**

## **Angel Appointment Book**

To get your students thinking of ways that angels work today, they are going to come up with an angel appointment book. They may work in small groups to come up with an angel's day planner, broken into hour blocks where they can list appointments the angel has to assist people in doing God's work. The examples should illustrate the three things angels do (refer to the Scripture Commentary)—serve people who are performing God's will on earth, help broadcast God's message, and praise God.

Here are some sample appointments to get your students started:

- **8:00—convince the man who just won the lottery to donate a large portion of his winnings to the local homeless shelter**
- **9:00—help the movie director get the appointment he needs that will allow his film about Jesus' life to be shown to millions of people**
- **3:30—give Sheila, who just found out she has cancer, the strength to praise God despite her pain**

Allow groups time to work. Then have them share their appointment books. Discuss the examples they created. Then lead into the final lesson step by saying: Angels' devotion to God is something we should want to imitate. Let's think of ways we can join angels in their work for God.

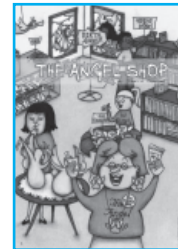
**Time**

15-20 minutes

**report**

**Materials**

ENCOUNTER™ magazine for each student



**Time**

15-20 minutes

**write**

**Materials**

Materials: paper, pens

### **Song Suggestion!**

Use the following song to help your students reflect on the application of today's lesson: "Sea of Angels" by the group Plus One on their album titled Exodus

## Time

5 minutes

## evaluation

## Materials

Bible



## Time

5 minutes

## pray

## Materials

Bible

## Teacher self-evaluation:

1. What things that work without being seen did your teens list?
2. Did your class survey the roles of angels in Scripture?
3. Could your students identify specific ways angels may work today?
4. Did most of your teens make plans to join angels in working for God?

**Power Point:** Angels are real and have important jobs to do.

Use one of the following activities to help your students join angels in working for God.

### QUICK STEP Cosmic Choir

Have your students to turn to page 32 in the student book. Say: We learned today that the main purposes of angels are to serve, help, and praise God. Their example should make us want to do the same. Have your students take time by themselves to read the self-evaluation questions and figure out what they need to do to serve, help, and praise God more. After a few minutes, discuss the thoughts they had as they worked on this activity. Ask if they'd ever thought about angels as role models before. Close in prayer, committing to God your class's desire to honor Him with their lives as the angels do.

Distribute ENCOUNTER™ magazine, if you haven't done so already.

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Begin by saying: The most important job of an angel is praising God. Imagine, surrounding the throne of Heaven, thousands of angels bowing and worshipping God. They are in His presence day after day and love to sing His praises. The amazing fact is that Jesus didn't die for their sins. They have never been called God's children. When you think about it, we have more reason to praise God than they do.

Have your students close their eyes as you read Revelation 4 out loud. This Scripture describes angels before God's throne, praising Him. Have your students say verse 8b with you: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty who was, and is, and is to come." Challenge your students to keep this image in their minds as they live their daily lives and strive to serve God and praise His holiness as the angels do. Close in prayer.

(Optional: If your group likes to sing, close by singing the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy.")

Distribute ENCOUNTER™ magazine, if you haven't done so already.

## ENCOUNTER

Encourage your students to read ENCOUNTER this week. They'll find:

- "The Angel Shop": a mysterious guest visits an unsuspecting store
- "Get Recharged": developing habits that can help revive your energy
- "my story": a teen testimony