

LEAD SHEET

Spiritual Opposites - WK. 1 **ANGELS & DEMONS** MARCH 6, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL: DIALOGUE WITH GOD

If you want to know God better, talk to Him!

GETTING STARTED

Let's play some word association:

- What do you think when you hear the word "angels"?

(Allow for discussion.)

- What do you think when you hear the word "demons"?

(Allow for discussion.) (Encourage students to discuss images, ideas, and other things that come to mind.)

Sometimes we get confused about what angels and demons are. But together, they make up a large part of the supernatural world.

Here me clearly: there are real things going on that you cannot see. Today, we'll be learning about that. Our discussion focuses on the Bible's descriptions. Because there are many ideas about angels and demons, which may not be true, we want to focus on Scripture and see what God has to say.

DIGGING IN

(The goal here is to take a close look at the discussion of angels and demons in the Scriptures. Slow down, read a lot of Scripture, and use it to fuel your discussion in the "Making it Real" section.)

ANGELS

Let's look first at what the Bible says about angels.

The word "angel," or its variant, is used almost 200 times in the Scripture. That's a lot of times. We can't look at all of them, but we want to view a bunch of them. Let's look at a few selections.

Read Luke 1:28-33

(This is obviously a passage of the birth announcement of Jesus, but the appearance of the angel is telling.)

Notice verse 30. The angel says, "Do not be afraid." This is a common declaration by angels in Scripture *(see Luke 1:13)*.

- Why do you think the angel says that?
(Allow for discussion.)

It's important that we understand the role of angels in the Bible. Let's take a look at a lot of Scripture and try to break it down: *(Select students to read some of these scriptures. Begin by stating what that angel does, then have the scriptures read out loud—at least one of each)*

Angels...

- Speak for God (promises, instructions, warnings)
(Genesis 16:10, Exodus 3:2)
 - Are sent by God (Daniel 6:22)
 - Bring judgment, Destroy stuff (2 Kings 19:35, 1 Chronicles 21:30, Acts 12:23, 1 Corinthians 10:10)
 - Reside in Heaven before God (Revelation 18:1, Revelation 22:1)
 - Satan can masquerade as one (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- The word "angel" is used almost 200 times total, and 55 times in Revelation alone, including all of the above.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some new things you've learned about angels in the Scriptures?
2. Is there anything surprising?

Angels are messengers of God. In fact, the Greek word means “messenger.” Now let’s take a look at demons.

DEMONS

The word "demon," and its variants, occurs in Scripture in 40 places. Demons are very real in the Bible, but the fact that they occur less than 25% of the times angels occur should tell us that God is more concerned that we understand good, not evil and light, not darkness.

(Have someone read Acts 19:13-16. Again, this is about an encounter Paul has, but it is a well-known example of demonic activity in the Bible.)

It’s important that we understand the role of demons in the Bible. Let’s take a look at some Scriptures that talk specifically about demons: *(Select students to read some of these scriptures. Begin by stating what unique trait of demons is included, then have the scriptures read out loud—at least one of each)*

Demons...

- Barely mentioned in the OT (2 occasions, not very instructive)
- Always in context of possession—demons must inhabit something (Matthew 12:43)
- Can teach (lies) (1 Timothy 4:1)
- Know the truth (Mark 1:24, 34, Luke 4:34, 41)
- Shudder in the Light of the Truth of God (James 2:19)

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some new things you have learned about demons in these Scriptures?
2. Is there anything surprising?

Demons are not all-powerful, but they are prevalent in Scripture. Now that we have a Scriptural framework, let's see how this applies to us.

MAKING IT REAL

Before we discuss anything here, let's point out a couple of things.

What angels and demons have in common:

- They each work to advance a cause (*Angels work to advance the purposes of God, while demons push the purposes of Satan.*)
- They each often fly under the radar (*How often do students think of either?*)
- Influence us (*for good or for bad*)

The real question is what side, darkness or light, are you listening to? Do you even realize that a struggle is going on for your soul?

There's a passage, Ephesians 6:12, which talks about this very struggle. Our battle is not about what we can see, it's about that real stuff that we cannot see.

The important part comes after verse 12, though.

Read Ephesians 6:13-18

Discussion Questions:

1. In light of the spiritual battle going on, what should we do? (*Be prepared; put on our spiritual armor; etc.*)

2. Do you feel like you are prepared for the battle?
Why/why not?

You need to get on the right side of the battle—God’s side. The book of Revelation is clear about demons, Satan, and evil—they get beat. God wins. The Scriptures are clear on this.

Demons know that they don’t stand a chance. When they meet Jesus in Scripture, they beg for mercy and call Him “Lord.” James says they believe and “tremble.” If you are a Christian, filled with the Holy Spirit, demons cannot control you.

Remember that the battle is against the spiritual realm. Your heart and your friends' hearts are at stake. We need to pray that we’re on the right side and pointing others to join the side of good.

CLOSING PRAYER

#CRAZYFORCHRIST