

Day One: Small Group Guide

Read: Psalm 148:1-6 (p. 689)

Read: Commentary (p. 688)

Reflect:

Have you ever had an experience that in retrospect seemed to be the appearance of an angel? What stories from others have you heard of possible angel appearances?

Dig:

Upon reading this Psalm, list all the created beings or things that God created who are called to praise him.

Read the "Freedom Point" on p. 689. How might that assist your expression of worship? How does that help you understand part of the ministry of angels?

Look up Psalm 103 (p. 659) and note the reference to angels in verses 20: What are angels said to be doing here?

Apply:

Since praise is in our arsenal for fighting our spiritual battle, and angels are supposed to lead the praise parade, join with the angels in praising God and imagine how this praise is defeating your enemy and warding off temptation for you today.

Day Two: "The Nature of Angels"

Read: Judges 13 (p. 277)

Read: Commentary (p. 278)

Reflect:

Do you think you would be afraid if you saw an angel? Why or why not?

Dig:

Notice how often God comes to a woman who is childless:

Read Genesis 18:1-15 (p. 21)

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-18 (p. 297)

What does Judges 13:8 tell you about the faith of Manoah? What might that have to do with God's choice to appear to him in angelic form?

Read Numbers 6:1-8 (p. 150) for the original regulations regarding a Nazirite. What similar vows might a young person make today?

List the five conclusions that can be drawn from this angel appearance in Judges 13. See the last paragraph of the commentary on page 278.

Apply:

Thank God for more knowledge from his Word regarding angels. Ask him to make you more aware of

the spirit world so that your freedom to operate in that world may increase.

Day Three: "The Ministry of Angels"

Read: Acts 12:1-11 (p. 1251)

Read: Commentary (p. 1252)

Reflect:

Why do you think there is so much current interest in angels? Are you more aware of the place of angels in your life than you used to be just a few years ago?

Dig:

Notice what verse 5 tells you about what is going on with the church. What might that have to do with what God does with his angel?

What do you notice about Peter's response to this angel?

What might Peter's encounter tell you about what angels look like and what they tend to do?

Read the other cross-references having to do with angels meeting human need:

1 Kings 19:5-8 (p. 393)

Mark 1:9-13 (p. 1124)

What more do you learn about the activities of angels from the above two passages?

Apply:

Thank God for the ministry of angels, specifically giving thanks for this incident in the life of Peter and then also any others you are aware of when God intervened with his angels to serve your or another's need.

Day Four: The Nature of Demons"

Read: Luke 11:24-26 (p. 1173)

Read: Commentary (p. 1173)

Reflect: What are demons? Are they much different than angels? How?

Dig: Read carefully the context of verses 24-26 (begin at verse 14) and answer these questions: What does verse 17 tell you about one goal of demons about themselves and their relationship to each other?

What does verse 20 tell you about one of the signs of the presence of God's kingdom ought to be?

What does verse 22 tell you about the relative power of a demon compared to the power of Jesus?

What does verse 23 tell you about whether there are any "neutral" parties in this spiritual battle?

Take note also about the conclusions the author of this Freedom in Christ Bible draws from verses 22-24:

-Every evil spirit has a separate identity.

- Demons are able to remember and make plans.
- Demons are able to evaluate and make decisions.
- Demons are able to combine forces.
- Demons vary in degree of evil.

Apply:

Turn to page 1522 in your Freedom in Christ Bible and read through the paragraph at the bottom of the page which speaks directly to the point that we need to replace demonic activity and presence with godly habits. Read the paragraph entitled: "How to Maintain Your Freedom." Now ask God to strengthen you in these six areas.

Day Five: "The Work of Demons"

Read: Revelation 12:9-12 (p. 1493)

Read: Commentary (p. 1494)

Reflect:

What do you think is the purpose or goal of demons in your life? What are the limits to their power?

Dig:

Read the passage of Revelation 12:9-12 and answer these questions:

From verses 7-8, what happened in heaven so that one third of the angels were thrown out?

From verse 10, what are Satan and his demons doing day and night?

From verse 11, what are the tactics used to defeat the demons?

From verse 12, what might we expect from these defeated yet not fully overcome foes?

From verse 12, what assurance do we have of the final outcome?

Apply:

Since we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and our testimony, spend some time in prayer asking God to forgive your sins by the blood of Jesus and then give testimony to what you believe. You might find the 11 statements of truth on page 1513 to be very helpful here.
