

WEEK 1

Angels

FRIENDLY FORCES

"Just thinking about angels can give us a fresh reminder that there's another world besides this one that clings so closely all around us. Angels already experience the fullness of that other world - God's eternal, heavenly kingdom...Someday we'll experience it with them."

- Dr. David Jeremiah

DAY 1

1. How do you picture angels? Describe or draw one in the space below.
2. What are some things you've heard or read about angels?
3. Angels have received a lot of attention in recent years – in books, movies, television, and conversation. With so much information – or misinformation – floating around, it's easy to be misled about the role of angels and our interaction with them. Let's look at what the Bible teaches about these invisible beings!

According to **Colossians 1:16**, where did angels come from?

- ☐ Like God, they have always existed.
- ☐ God created them.
- ☐ They are the souls of humans who have died.
- ☐ They are products of our imagination.

4. Based on your last answer, are angels equal to God in power? Why or why not?
5. What does **Hebrews 1:3-4** tell you about Jesus' position, compared to that of the angels?
6. In Scripture, the word "angel" means "messenger." Angels play a unique role in God's communication with us. Take a look at a few close encounters with angels in the Bible and fill in the chart below:

Scripture	Who received the message?	What was the message?
Numbers 22:21-23		
Luke 1:26-31		
Matthew 1:20		
Acts 10:1-8		
Revelation 1:1-2		

7. All of these examples remind us that there is an unseen world, where an army of heavenly messengers is actively involved in the lives of God's children. According to **Hebrews 13:2**, do we always recognize the presence of angels?

8. What does it take to be "sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (**Hebrew 11:1**)?

DAY 2

1. Angels perform many roles besides that of messenger. Read the Bible verses below and mark the following statements as "T" (true) or "F" (false).

True or False?

_____ Angels praise God continually. (**Psalm 103:20**)

_____ Angels keep a close watch on children. (**Matthew 18:10**)

_____ Angels carry out some of God's judgments. (**1 Chronicles 21:15**)

_____ Angels offer protection. (**Daniel 6:22**)

_____ Angels take us to Christ when we die. (**Luke 16:22**)

_____ Angels serve God's people. (**Hebrews 1:14**)

2. **Psalm 91** gives us a beautiful picture of the power and protection of God. When you put your trust in Him, what will He send His angels to do for you (v. 11-12)?

3. In the Old Testament, how did Daniel experience this protection firsthand after being thrown into the lion's den as punishment for praying to God (**Daniel 6:22**)?

4. Have you ever experienced a remarkable rescue and wondered if angels were present? If so, describe what happened:

5. Angels, like humans, are intelligent, moral creatures. But there are some key differences between us. The Bible tells us that they are spirits, which means they do not have physical bodies (**Heb. 1:14**). They do not marry (**Matt. 22:30**). Angels have great power, and human beings were made "lower than the angels" (**Heb. 2:7**).

According to **1 Corinthians 6:3**, how will our relationship to angels change, once Christ returns?

6. As we will see in the next lesson, a great revolt took place among the angels, and those who rebelled were cast out from God's presence forever (**2 Peter 2:4**). God did not forgive any of the fallen angels. How does this differ from God's response to human beings, who also rebelled (**John 3:16**)?
7. What does this teach you about God's heart toward human beings?
8. What difference does this knowledge make in your attitude toward God?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Do you ever think about the fact that angels might be watching you, or guarding you? It's a reality that should encourage us when we're lonely or afraid, and convict us when we disobey God. This week, try and look beyond the visible world. Remember that there is an army of angels watching over you and observing your actions. Give them plenty of reasons to rejoice!

WEEK 2

Demons

ENEMY FORCES

If you really believe that you have a personal enemy,
your smartest move is to get to know all about him.

DAY 1

1. What is the difference between believing in a personal enemy and believing in a dark, evil force?

Which is the greater threat?

2. When God created the world, everything He made was good (**Genesis 1:31**), but by Genesis 3, evil had entered this perfect place. Read **Ezekiel 28:12-15**, which Bible interpreters view as a description of our greatest personal enemy – Satan. According to these verses, was Satan always evil?

3. List some of the words used to describe him in this passage.

What was the cause of Satan's downfall, as seen in verse 15?

4. **Isaiah 14:12-15** tells us more about Satan's fall. What was his worst sin?

5. How does Satan's downfall resemble his temptation of Eve in **Genesis 3:4-5**?

6. The best tactic for defeating your enemy is knowing how he operates. As we saw in his encounter with Eve, Satan is a "crafty" creature (**Genesis 3:1**), always twisting the truth. Use the following passages to identify some of the other ways he attacks us.

John 8:44 _____

2 Corinthians 4:4 _____

Luke 4:13 _____

1 Peter 5:8 _____

2 Corinthians 11:14 _____

7. Name one lie that Satan is telling you now to come between you and God. Perhaps he is twisting God's words to make you think that God doesn't want what's best for you. Spend a moment in quiet prayer seeking God's truth in that area of your life, then record it in the space below.

Satan's Lie: _____

God's Truth: _____

DAY 2

1. Our enemy, Satan, doesn't fight alone – he has an army to help do his dirty work. We call them demons, but what were they originally, according to **2 Peter 2:4** and **Jude 6**?
☐ Demons are evil spirits who have always existed.
☐ They are the ghosts of evil people who have died.
☐ They are made-up symbols for evil, used to teach us about sin.
☐ They are angels who sinned and are bound for judgment.
2. The devil's main goal is to get in the way of your spiritual growth. Temptation, fear, doubt, guilt, pride, confusion, envy – these are just a few of the weapons he uses against us. In **John 10:10**, Jesus refers to our enemy as "the thief." What are some of the things Satan and his demons want to steal from you?
3. Are there places in the world – near or far away – where you can see the influence of the devil? List them here.

According to **1 John 4:4**, why don't Christians need to fear these spirit beings?

4. It is important for us to remember that this is not a battle between equal forces. Jesus Himself said of the devil, "He has no hold on me" (**John 14:30**). As the Creator, God holds ultimate power over all of creation. Read **1 John 3:7-8** and fill in the blanks below:

Jesus instructs us not to let anyone _____.

The devil has been _____ from the beginning.

The reason Jesus appeared was to _____.

5. According to **Revelation 12:7-9**, what happened to Satan and his demons at the time of Christ's death and resurrection?

6. Satan and his army never had a chance. The victory belongs to God, who for a time has permitted Satan to exercise evil in the world. What does Jesus say in **John 12:31** that shows Satan's time is almost up?

7. Name one thing you hope to accomplish for God and His glory.

Do you sense Satan trying to trip you up? How?

What does that tell you about the importance of your mission?

What is your best defense?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Now that you've studied your enemy, you know a little bit more about how he operates. Which of the tactics mentioned in this lesson are evident in your life? Doubt? Fear? Temptation? Guilt? Remember: Satan wouldn't train his weapons on you if you weren't a threat. Pray that God would make you a dangerous Christian, living flat-out for Him. There is no weapon in Satan's arsenal to match the power of Christ in you. Praise Him that no power – visible or invisible – can separate you from His love (**Romans 8:38**).

WEEK 3 *Fight* THE GOOD FIGHT

"Every man is a warrior inside.
But the choice to fight is his own."

- Blain Eldredge, Age 9



DAY 1

1. The term 'spiritual warfare' sounds ominous. It really just means 'being aware of, and effectively resisting, Satan's attempts to defeat us.' Like any warriors, we can be more effective if we are trained and disciplined so that we can defend ourselves against the enemy. Think for a moment about a soldier preparing for combat. What are some of the ways soldiers get ready for combat?

2. What are some of the ways that we can prepare to fight our enemy, according to the following verses?

1 Corinthians 16:13

Mark 14:38

Micah 6:8

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

3. Armor is key to a soldier's defense. The Apostle Paul saw plenty of armor up close as a prisoner of the Roman guard. When Paul wrote Ephesians, he was being held under house arrest for two years!

Read **Ephesians 6:10-12**. What two instructions does Paul give to believers?

4. According to this passage, why should we put on the full armor of God?

5. Who is it we are fighting against? (*Check all that apply*)

- ☐ Nonbelievers
- ☐ Powers of this dark world
- ☐ Spiritual forces of evil
- ☐ Terrorists

6. Paul repeats one key word four times in verses 11 and 13-14. What is it?

- ☐ Love
- ☐ Strong
- ☐ Armor
- ☐ Stand

7. What does it mean to "stand your ground" when Satan tries to knock you down?

8. What are Satan's most effective tactics with you? Which temptations are hardest for you to resist?

DAY 2

1. The armor Paul describes in **Ephesians 6:13-18** resembles the battle gear of a Roman warrior. Read over the passage and match the following pieces of armor with their description:

Belt	Spirit
Breastplate	Faith
Footgear	Righteousness
Shield	Readiness
Helmet	Truth
Sword	Salvation

2. A warrior's leather belt did more than hold his tunic and sword in place. It also offered support and protection to his lower body. If a belt gives confidence and protection to a soldier, how should the "belt of truth" – knowing the truth of God's Word – help us when our faith is attacked (v. 14)?

3. The breastplate (v. 14) was a key piece of armor, protecting a warrior's major organs, including the heart. **Proverbs 4:23-27** in The Message describes a heart of righteousness this way:

Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that's where life starts. Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth; avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip. Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions. Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you. Look neither right nor left; leave evil in the dust.

In the passage above, circle the phrases that describe areas where you especially need God's help today.

4. According to **Ephesians 6:16**, what makes faith such a powerful shield?

5. In the list of items Paul describes, only one is a weapon. What is it?

6. How does **Hebrews 4:12** describe this weapon? What does it do?

7. In **Ephesians 6:18**, Paul reminds believers of the importance of prayer. Pastor John Piper calls prayer “a walkie-talkie for warfare.” What makes prayer such an important communication device, especially when you’re struggling with sin?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Do you view yourself as a warrior? If not, it’s time you did! God has given you everything you need to “fight the good fight of the faith” (**1 Timothy 6:12**). Most importantly, He has given you Himself! Take time to memorize and reflect on **Psalm 7:10** this week:

My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart.

Praise God for His awesome protection and salvation.

WEEK 4 *Mission* ACCOMPLISHED

"Christianity is the story of how the rightful King has landed, you might say in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in His great campaign of sabotage."

- C.S. Lewis

DAY 1

1. Agree or disagree? The universe is a battle zone between good and evil.
☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Never really thought about it ☐ Disagree
2. The Bible tells us that we will always have opposition if we belong to God (**John 16:33**). But what promise comes with belonging to Christ?

3. As we see the battle in the world between good and evil, it is easy to think that other people are our enemies. Read **Ephesians 6:12** (NIV) and fill in the blanks below:

*For our struggle is not against _____ and _____,
but against the _____, against the _____, against
the _____ of this dark world and against the _____
_____ in the heavenly realms.*

4. God even spoke of His battle plan back in the Garden of Eden, right after Adam and Eve sinned. To Satan, the serpent, He said:

*"Because you've done this, you're cursed, cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals, cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life. I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll wound your head, you'll wound his heel." (**Genesis 3:14-15**, The Message)*

Who is the "he" who would one day crush Satan's head?
(**1 Corinthians 15:22-25**)

- ☐ The Angel Gabriel
- ☐ Adam
- ☐ Jesus Christ
- ☐ Michael the Archangel

5. In what way did Satan "wound his heel," according to **Luke 24:46**?

- ☐ His suffering on the cross
- ☐ His temptation in the desert
- ☐ His encounters with sinners
- ☐ Snake bites in the wilderness

6. Satan tempts all of us, just as he did Jesus (**Luke 4:1-13**). Since Satan has no chance of taking God off his throne, he wants to rule our hearts. Do you think it is easy or difficult to recognize Satan's attempts to lead you into sin?

1	2	3	4	5
Very easy		It depends		Very difficult

7. Has knowing Jesus made you more aware of temptation?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can't tell

8. Any power Satan has in this world is limited and temporary. The true King is on the move! Read **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** and list three things God will do when Jesus returns:

If we know Jesus as Lord, the victory over evil is already ours! That doesn't mean we will never be tempted. But it does mean that ultimately we will not be defeated.

DAY 2

1. According to **1 John 4:4**, why don't Christians need to fear spirit beings?
2. It is important for us to remember that this is not a battle between equal forces. Think about who God is: He is all-seeing, all-knowing, and all-powerful. Satan is none of those things!

Jesus Himself said of the devil, "He has no hold on me" (**John 14:30**). As the Creator, God holds ultimate power over all of creation. Read **1 John 3:7-8** and fill in the blanks below:

Jesus instructs us not to let anyone _____.

The devil has been _____ from the beginning.

The reason Jesus appeared was to _____.

3. According to **Revelation 12:7-9**, what happened to Satan and his demons at the time of Christ's death and resurrection?
4. Satan and his army never had a chance. The victory belongs to God, who for a time has permitted Satan to exercise evil in the world. What does Jesus say in **John 12:31** that shows Satan's time is almost up?
5. What's the biggest change in your life since you began to really trust in Jesus?
6. While it would be convenient to say, "The devil made me do it!" every time we make a mistake, the truth is that many temptations we experience come our own evil desires (**James 1:13-15**). What does **Psalm 34:14** reveal about your personal responsibility in fighting evil?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

End your study time by praying with your eyes open. Look around and thank God for the good things you see around you. Ask Him to help you through the struggles happening around you that you can't see. Pray that He would defeat Satan's purposes in your life, and accomplish His own, through you.