

Christmas Messengers

Special News from Angels Message 1

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► Outline

Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! ... God ... sent me to bring you this good news!"
Luke 1:19 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(Psalm 103:20-21; Luke 1:19; Revelation 14:6)

"Angel" = Hebrews *mal'âk*, Greek *aggēlōs*,

a _____.

B. Messages from angels...

(Luke 1:5-38; 2:8-20)

1. Arrived from _____.

(Luke 1:5-13,19,23-31. C/R: John 14:26; Hebrews 1:14;
Revelation 22:6)

2. Announced Jesus' _____.

(Luke 1:13b-17,31-33; 2:8-12. C/R: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7;
Jeremiah 23:5)

3. Acquired a _____.

(Luke 1:18-22,34-38; 2:13-20. C/R: Matthew 6:10;
Romans 6:13; 1 John 2:17)

Answers: A. messenger B. 1. God 2. arrival 3. response

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

What is your favorite Christmas memory?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

1. When an angel appears in Luke 1 and 2, he says, *Don't be afraid*. Read each one of these statements and describe the reassurances you feel about God from each of them.
 - *Don't be afraid Zechariah! God has heard your prayer.* **Luke 1:13 (NLT)**
 - *Don't be afraid Mary...you have found favor with God.* **Luke 1:30 (NLT)**
 - *Don't be afraid...I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.* **Luke 2:10 (NLT)**
2. After learning about Jesus, Mary and the shepherds praised God. How do you react when something wonderful happens? Remember to praise God for all He has done in your life.
3. Zechariah and Mary both had doubts when the angel delivered his message. What was the difference in the way they doubted? How do you deal with doubts about God?
4. Zechariah's prayer took many years to be answered. When has God answered a prayer at a different time than what you wanted? How did you deal with that delay?
5. How did you first hear the Good News about Jesus — through a family member, friend, sermon, Scripture or another way? How did the Spirit move in you at that time?

6. The angel proclaimed the Good News of Jesus' birth with the shepherds. How can you use this time of year to share the Good News of Jesus? Pray and ask God to give you opportunities to tell others about Jesus during this Christmas season.
7. The shepherds, some of the lowest members of society, were the first to hear the Good News of Jesus' birth. Think of a time you felt unworthy of God's grace. What did you do? Rejoice that God loves us all, no matter what.
8. The angels had such tremendous news to share with the shepherds that they burst into praise! Visit brookwoodchurch.org/media to listen and meditate on *Angels We Have Heard on High* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* from the December 4 service. Thank God for sending His Son to earth!

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

One way you can grow closer to God is by reading Scripture. Throughout the week, read the accounts of Jesus' birth in Matthew and Luke. Thank God for the gift of His Son Jesus.

Memory Verse

Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation. **Hebrews 1:14 (NLT)**

Daily Reading

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|------------------------|--------------------|
| Day 1: Psalm 103:20-21 | Day 4: Luke 2:8-15 |
| Day 2: Isaiah 7:14 | Day 5: Romans 6:13 |
| Day 3: Isaiah 9:6-7 | |

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, December 11, we'll continue our series titled *Christmas Messengers*. To prepare, read **Matthew 2:1-12**.

