

Connection

Have you ever felt an angel's presence in your life?

Content

Among the many fascinating elements of the Nativity story, the presence of angels may just top the list. Scattered throughout the Christmas narrative, these strange but divine beings show up demonstrating a practical truth— that God is near, at work, and something big is happening.

What Are Angels?

1. Read Luke 1:1-4. One of the most difficult things for a writer is how to begin a story. Luke chose to begin by sharing the story of an angel and an old priest. Why?

Why Not Obey?

2. Zechariah and Elizabeth were careful to obey all of God's commands and are noted for their righteous living. Yet they faced a trial of being unable to have children. How does the fact that they endured this trial ultimately give glory to God?

Why Not Pray?

3. Read Luke 1:8-10. Zechariah was chosen by a custom of casting lots, similar to our understanding of winning the lottery, and he was given the opportunity to burn incense in the temple.

There are only 14 times throughout the Jewish calendar year that this honor is given. When have you been chosen for something of great importance? What did this feel like for you?

What might this have felt like for Zechariah?

4. Read Luke 1:11-13. While praying in the temple, an angel appeared before Zechariah and told him that God had heard his prayer.

How does the angel's message address both Zechariah's prayer and fear?

Why Not Believe?

5. The angel tells Zechariah in Luke 1:13-15 that they will in fact have a son, named John, who will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. How could receiving a message like this be hard for Zechariah?

6. Read Luke 1:16-18. Even as a righteous man hearing a message from an angel, Zechariah simply couldn't see past what he perceived as impossible. When have you seen God make the impossible happen?

Commitment

7. Read Luke 1:21-25. Elizabeth's response was one of total faith and belief in God, while Zechariah displayed unbelief. What would it look like for you to live a life of faith this week, and simply believe in God's love and promises?

Close your study today praying about those situations in your life which seem impossible. Ask the Lord to help you face these with faith in Him, rather than unbelief.