



“Head of an
Angel, After
Rembrandt”
by
Vincent van
Gogh (1889)

When the angels appeared to shepherds in the hills surrounding Bethlehem, they shouted and praised God. When the Lord laid the foundations of the earth, they shouted for joy. They surround the throne praising God, and they announce good tidings of great joy. Listen in to their story and learn why angels join in joyful chorus.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker:

(1) What stands out to you most about angels in school plays about the birth of Jesus?

(2) What do you think angels think about humans?

THE SHEPHERD’S STORY. Read **Luke 2:8-15; 1 Sam 16:11; Micah 5:2-5.** Imagine you were a shepherd that night. Describe what you saw, felt, heard, and thought. Why do you think God sent angels to shepherds?

BACKGROUND ON ANGELS. Read **Gen 3:24; 19:1-15; 28:12; 32:1-2; Ex 12:23; 23:23; 25:18-22, 31-33; Job 1; 38:7; 1 Kings 19:5-7; Dan 8:16; 9:20-21; Mt 1:20; Lk 1:19.** What can we gather about angels, their origin, and their story?

ABRAHAM AND LUKE 1. Compare these passages:

Gen 11:30 & 17:1 (Lk 1:7)

Gen 12:2 (Lk 1:15, 32)

Gen 17:7 & 18:11-12 (Lk 1:18)

Gen 15:1ff (Lk 1:13, 30)

Zeph 3:14, 17 (Lk 1:31, 35)

Gen 18:14 (Lk 1:37)

What is the significance of these?

SINGING. Read **Zephaniah 3:17 & Luke 15:10.** Why does God sing? Notice how singing is connected to joy and rejoicing in scripture. Why and how do we use “sing” as a metaphor? While the Bible never says angels “sing,” why do you think Christian history has long used this term to describe angel praise?

HUMANS AND ANGELS. Read **Hebrews 1:5-6 & Psalm 8:5.** Are humans “lower” or “higher” than angels? In what ways? If Jesus became human, what does that say, imply or change about humanity?

ONE OF US. Reflect on the fact that Jesus Christ came as a human, from birth to death. Why is this significant? How might angels reflect on this significance?