

## What are Good Angels?

Read Luke's account of angels announcing the news of Jesus' birth:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:8-14, NIV)

1. Who did angels speak to?

2. What did the angel of the Lord look like?

3. Who did the message come from? What clue tipped you off?

4. Who did the angels praise?

5. How do you know if they were good angels?

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### Teacher Notes

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Read the account slowly and with drama to make it memorable. Place an emphasis on certain details to help the student learn how to observe for clues to understand the passage and its implications.

1. Who did angels speak to?

In speaking to shepherds, angels demonstrated that they can talk to human beings.

2. What did the angel of the Lord look like?

The account does not describe any features of the angel of the Lord so we can only assume that he looked like a man. And the account does not indicate if the angel of the Lord was floating in air or on the ground. What contributed to the shepherds fear was the great light of the glory of the Lord shining around the angel of the Lord and the shepherds.

3. Who did the message come from? What clue tipped you off?

The message came from God. The clue was "angel **of the Lord.**"

4. Who did the angels praise?

The angels praised God and this is a distinction of a good angel.

5. How do you know if they were good angels?

The clue is "a great company of the **heavenly** host appeared with the angel **praising God.**" Heavenly host refers to a great number of angels residing in heaven. The shepherds saw a large number of angels in the sky!

Another distinction of good angels is whether they live in heaven; good angels are also known as unfallen angels. Evil angels cannot reside in heaven, because they fell from heaven and are known as fallen angels.