

Week Four: *The Heavenly Heavies*
Hebrews 2:1-18

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. How would you rate your understanding of angels; who they are and the role they play? Are you comfortable with what you know about angels? Why or why not?
2. One way to better understand angels is to understand what they are not. Read John 1:1-3. Who was with God in the beginning when he created the heavens and earth?
3. Now read Genesis 1:6-2:3. Who was created in the six days of creation?
4. The Bible tells us that Jesus (known as The Word in John 1) was with God from the beginning, he is God and was with God, and along with him created the heavens and the Earth - including humans, animals and angels. Look again at Genesis 2:1-3. What had been completed?
5. Read Genesis 1:27 & 2:4-7. How did God create man?
6. Angels are not human, nor are they God. They were created by God, just as humans were. But they were not created the same way. We are the crown of his creation. Only humans were made in God's image. He did not breathe his life into angels, only humans. How does this knowledge make you feel about how God purposely created you?
7. As you finish your FIFTEEN, ask God to continue to fill you with awe at his perfect plan for creation.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. When you think of angels what images come to mind? Are they pleasant images or frightening ones to you?
9. Another way to better understand angels is to understand their role. The name "angel" comes from the Greek word "angelos," which means messenger. The role of messenger is probably one of the most familiar roles to us. We often see angels announcing news and delivering warnings. Some examples are an angel appearing to Mary to tell her she will give birth to a son, appearing to Joseph, Jesus' father, in a dream to warn him to leave town, and announcing Jesus' birth to the shepherds. Try to imagine God delivering news to you through an angel, what do you think would be your reaction?
10. Read Hebrews 1:1-14. What does this say about Jesus' relationship to the angels and to mankind?

11. How are angels described in verse 14?

12. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Matthew 26:52-54. What does Jesus say about angels in this scripture?

13. How does it make you feel that God uses the angels to minister to both humans and Jesus, his very own son? What does that say about the importance of man to him?

14. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to open your eyes to all of the ways he takes care of you that you may have never noticed.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. We've only looked at a couple of biblical descriptions of angels so far this week, but we can already see that there are more to angels than meets the eye. Read Hebrews 2:1-18 and note anything that sticks out at you.

16. Look again at Hebrews 2:14-18.
 - a. What do humans share with Jesus that distinguishes us from angels?

 - b. What do humans receive because of Jesus?

17. Read Acts 12:7. What did the angel do?

18. One thing that distinguishes man from the angels is flesh and blood. As in the example in question 17, angels sometimes have a physical form for a short time to carry out a mission. But, angels are spirits, and humans are flesh and blood. Because Jesus came to earth and became flesh and blood, he shares in our humanity, which includes not only flesh and blood, but suffering and even temptation. How does knowing Jesus experienced what we do, first-hand, make you feel?

19. Now, think about the fact that Jesus knows exactly what we experience, the hardships, temptations, and trials, and in addition, has the power to call down legions of angels on our behalf? Could this change the way you might live your life? List some ways this knowledge can give you courage.

20. Finish your FIFTEEN by looking over your list. What things would you most like to do? Once you've narrowed it down, commit your plan to God. Ask him to use all of his heavenly power to help you accomplish your steps.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

21. Do you have a favorite movie or television show about angels? What appeals to you about that story/premise?

22. Look again at Hebrews 2:1-18. On week one, we took a glimpse of heaven. Did you learn anything about heaven that surprised you? How about angels? Has anything specifically about angels surprised you?

23. Read Luke 16:22. What happened when the man died?

24. Read Matthew 22:29-30. In what way are the humans in heaven compared to angels in this verse?

25. One of the things about heaven that often surprises people is that people and angels are there together. Have you ever heard someone say that a loved one that passed away has earned their angel wings? Do you find this a comforting thought or is it more comforting to know that God has a special place for humans in heaven? Why or why not?

26. We see that angels do not reproduce in heaven (neither will humans) and as we saw in Genesis 2:1-3 on day one of this week, all of the heavens and the earth were created in the first six days of creation. Scripture is clear that humans and angels were both created by God, and each have their own distinct place and role in God's creation. If you find the thought that humans do not become angels distressing, look again at the beautiful picture that God has for us by re-reading Hebrews 2:5-8.

27. Spend of the rest of your FIFTEEN giving praise to God, for his plan to give you an eternity in his perfect presence, starting right here on Earth.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

28. Popular culture has depicted angels in many ways, some accurate, others pure fiction. The Bible tells us that angels are high, supernatural beings, pressed into our service. This does not sound so bad, right? Read the following scriptures and note the different types of angels and whether or not they sound scary to you.
 - a. Genesis 3:24

 - b. Isaiah 6:2

 - c. Corinthians 1:16 (Hint: a throne is an angel ☺)

 - d. 1 Thessalonians 4:16

29. Now read the following verses and note how each makes you feel about angels.
 - a. Psalm 91:11-13

 - b. Psalm 34:7

c. Psalm 103:20

d. Hebrews 13:2

30. How does knowing this about angels inform how you think about them? About the way you live your life?

31. One final verse to read this week, 1 John 4:1-4. What does this passage say we should do when we feel we have encountered an angel?

32. When we look at what the Bible say about angels, we can see that they are powerful, because God created them to be powerful - even the fallen angels we looked at last week. God is more powerful than any spirit and he has surrounded us with them to guard us and take care of us. Finish your final FIFTEEN of the week in prayer. Ask God to help you use your understanding of angels to fully trust his plans for your life.