

Introduction

Angels are one of those curious realities in the Bible that sometimes raise more questions than they answer. What exactly is an angel? When did they come into being? Do they have free will? Scripture does not satisfy all our curiosity. But it is clear about one thing: angels are messengers. Time and again, God sends angels to people in order to convey a message — to make someone aware of God’s presence, God’s plans, and God’s call.

And when they arrive, they rarely do so gently. Angels appear when life is about to change, when something costly lies ahead, when the future feels uncertain. They stand at turning points. They speak into fear. They announce mercy. They reveal that heaven is nearer than we imagined.

This study will explore five moments in Scripture where angels meet people in these pivotal places. We will journey with Mary, Joseph, Elijah, Jesus, Hagar, and others — noticing not only the messages the angels bring, but what those messages reveal about the character of God. Again and again, angels show us a God who does not remain distant, but draws near in both ordinary and extraordinary moments.

Lent is also a season of turning points. It is a time of reflection and self-examination, when we are invited to look honestly at our spiritual lives and ask where growth is needed. It is a season of repentance — of turning, or re-turning, toward the lifelong call of following Jesus. Lent interrupts our routines and invites us to pay attention.

Fear is often the first response to holiness. Jacob wakes from his dream saying, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it.” Zechariah trembles before the angel’s announcement. Isaiah cries, “Woe is me!” before hearing God’s call. Angels do not remove fear; they speak into it. They do not make life easier; they reveal God’s nearness within it.

Perhaps it comes naturally to give thanks when we are in times of joy. But God is also present in the unsettling and frightening moments, and in the deeply mundane rhythms of daily life. Lent helps us remain attentive to that presence.

Over these five weeks, we will reflect together on fear and hope, on mercy and courage, and on what it means to be sent ourselves as messengers of God’s love. Each session includes a core reading, optional texts, and questions for conversation. My hope is that by the end of Lent, we will recognize not only the angels in the story, but the ways God continues to interrupt, sustain, and send us into the world.