

# ADEUS ANGLICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Grades 4–8 | The Saints Series

## ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS

Feast of St. Michael and All Angels — September 29 | Liturgical Color: White

### LESSON THEME: GOD'S HEAVENLY MESSENGERS, PROTECTORS, AND SERVANTS

#### KEY SCRIPTURE: PSALM 91:11 (NKJV)

For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

Main Message: God created angels as spiritual beings who worship Him, carry out His commands, and serve His purposes. Throughout Scripture, angels deliver messages, protect God's people, and remind us of His power and presence.

Although angels are not human saints, the Church honors them as faithful servants of God.

#### TEACHER BACKGROUND: WHAT ARE ANGELS?

The word angel comes from the Greek word *angelos*, meaning "messenger."

Angels are spiritual beings created by God. Unlike human beings, they do not have physical bodies by nature, although Scripture describes occasions when angels appeared in human form.

Angels are not people who have died and gone to Heaven. God created them as a distinct order of beings.

The Bible describes angels carrying out several important responsibilities:

- Messengers: Delivering God's instructions and announcements.
- Protectors: Guarding and helping God's people according to His will.
- Worshipers: Praising God continually in Heaven.
- Servants: Carrying out God's commands.
- Warriors: Participating in the spiritual battle against evil.

Angels are powerful, but they are not gods. They serve the one true God, and Christians worship God alone.

#### What Is an Archangel?

The word archangel means "chief angel."

Scripture specifically identifies Michael as an archangel in Jude 1:9. Gabriel is an important heavenly messenger and is traditionally recognized by the Church as an archangel.

Christian tradition also recognizes Raphael, who appears in the Book of Tobit, one of the books of the Apocrypha. The 1928 Book of Common Prayer includes Tobit among the books read for instruction and example of life, while distinguishing the Apocrypha from canonical Scripture.

## **MEET THE ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS**

### **St. Michael — Defender of God's People**

#### **Name Meaning: Who is like God?**

Scripture: Daniel 10:13; Daniel 12:1; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7–9

Michael is portrayed as a heavenly defender who battles against Satan and the forces of evil.

In Revelation, Michael and his angels fight against the dragon, representing Satan.

Teaching Connection: Michael reminds us that God is stronger than evil. Christians are called to stand firm in faith, resist temptation, and trust in God's protection.

### **St. Gabriel — Messenger of Good News**

#### **Name Meaning: God is my strength.**

Scripture: Daniel 8:16; Daniel 9:21–23; Luke 1:11–20; Luke 1:26–38

Gabriel delivered important messages from God.

He announced to Zacharias that Elizabeth would give birth to John the Baptist. He also appeared to the Blessed Virgin Mary to announce that she would become the mother of Jesus.

Teaching Connection: Gabriel reminds us to listen carefully to God's Word and respond with faith and obedience, as Mary did.

### **St. Raphael — Healing and Guidance**

#### **Name Meaning: God heals.**

Scripture: Tobit 5–12 (Apocrypha)

In the Book of Tobit, Raphael accompanies young Tobias on a journey, protects him, and helps bring healing to his father, Tobit.

Raphael is traditionally associated with healing, guidance, and safe travel.

Teaching Connection: God cares for His people in ways we do not always recognize. We can trust His guidance and show compassion to those who are sick or in need.

## **Guardian Angels**

In Matthew 18:10, Jesus speaks about the angels of little children who behold the face of the Father in Heaven.

Psalms 91:11 describes God's angels watching over His people.

Important Teaching Point: Christians may pray to God for His protection and thank Him for the ministry of angels. We do not worship angels or treat them as independent sources of divine power.

## ANGELS THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

Angels appear at important moments throughout salvation history.

| <b>Biblical Event</b>                           | <b>Scripture</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Cherubim guard the Garden of Eden               | Genesis 3:24     |
| Angels visit Abraham                            | Genesis 18       |
| Jacob dreams of angels ascending and descending | Genesis 28:10–17 |
| Isaiah sees seraphim praising God               | Isaiah 6:1–7     |
| Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Mary          | Luke 1:26–38     |
| Angels announce Christ's birth to shepherds     | Luke 2:8–14      |
| Angels minister to Jesus after His temptation   | Matthew 4:11     |
| An angel strengthens Jesus in Gethsemane        | Luke 22:43       |
| Angels Announce the Resurrection                | Luke 24:1–7      |
| Angels appear at the Ascension                  | Acts 1:9–11      |

### **Cherubim and Seraphim**

The Bible describes different kinds of heavenly beings.

Cherubim are associated with God's holiness, presence, and throne. Images of cherubim appeared above the Ark of the Covenant.

Seraphim appear in Isaiah's vision of Heaven, praising God:

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory! — Isaiah 6:3 (NKJV)

Explain that biblical descriptions of heavenly beings are sometimes very different from the familiar pictures of angels with white robes and feathered wings.

### **ANGLICAN FAITH CONNECTION**

The Anglican Church celebrates the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels on September 29, sometimes called Michaelmas.

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer appoints:

- Epistle: Revelation 12:7–12
- Gospel: Matthew 18:1–10

The Collect for St. Michael and All Angels asks God that, as His holy angels serve Him in Heaven, they may also help and defend us on earth.

## Angels in Anglican Worship

Students may already be familiar with angels through the Holy Communion service.

In the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, the priest introduces the Sanctus by referring to the company of Heaven:

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven...

The congregation then joins in praising God:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

Teaching Connection: When we worship God during Holy Communion, our praise joins the worship of the heavenly company. This is a wonderful way to help students connect angels with their own experience of Anglican worship.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Explain what angels are and how they serve God.
- Identify Michael and Gabriel and describe their roles in Scripture.
- Recognize Raphael as an archangel honored in Christian tradition.
- Understand that angels are created spiritual beings, not deceased humans.
- Identify examples of angels in the Old and New Testaments.
- Explain why Christians worship God rather than angels.
- Recognize the connection between angels and the Sanctus in Holy Communion.

## CLASSROOM TEACHING PLAN

Approximately 35 minutes

| Activity                         | Time   |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Opening Prayer and Introduction  | 5 min  |
| Story of Angels and Archangels   | 8 min  |
| Scripture Reading and Discussion | 8 min  |
| Hands-On Craft                   | 11 min |
| Closing Reflection and Prayer    | 3 min  |

## **Opening Prayer**

Begin with the regular Sunday School opening routine, including the Pledge, Lord's Prayer, and opening prayer.

Suggested Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, we thank You for creating the holy angels who worship You and carry out Your commands. Help us listen to Your Word, stand strong against evil, and trust in Your loving care. May we always remember that You are with us and that nothing is greater than Your power and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Opening Discussion — What Do You Know About Angels?**

Ask students:

"What do you think an angel looks like?"

Allow them to describe wings, halos, white robes, or other familiar images.

Explain that artists have used these symbols for centuries, but Scripture sometimes describes angels very differently.

Ask:

- Are angels the same as people?
- Do all angels have wings?
- Can angels make their own rules, or do they serve God?
- Have you heard the names Michael or Gabriel before?

Emphasize that the most important thing about angels is not their appearance but their faithful service to God.

## **SCRIPTURE STUDY AND DISCUSSION**

### **Reading 1 — Luke 1:26–38: Gabriel Visits Mary**

Read the story of the Annunciation.

Ask:

- What message did Gabriel bring to Mary?
- How did Mary respond?
- Why was this announcement so important?
- How can we respond faithfully when God asks us to do something difficult?

Main Point: God's messengers direct our attention toward His plans and promises.

### **Reading 2 — Revelation 12:7–9: Michael and the Dragon**

Read the passage describing Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon.

Explain that the dragon represents Satan, who opposes God.

Ask:

- What does Michael's faithfulness teach us?
- What are some ways Christians can resist evil?
- Why should we trust God instead of relying only on our own strength?

Main Point: God is victorious over evil, and His people are called to remain faithful.

### Reading 3 — Hebrews 1:13–14: Ministering Spirits

Read the passage describing angels as ministering spirits.

Ask:

- What does it mean to serve someone?
- How can we help people without expecting praise?
- What are some ways we can serve God at church, school, or home?

Main Point: Like the holy angels, Christians are called to serve God faithfully.

### Questions for Older Students (Grades 7–8)

1. Why is it important to understand that angels are created beings rather than gods?
2. How is Michael's battle against evil connected to the Christian struggle against temptation?
3. What can we learn from Mary's response to Gabriel?
4. How do angels remind us that God's creation includes more than the physical world we can see?
5. Why should we be careful about accepting popular stories about angels that are not supported by Scripture?

## HANDS-ON CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Choose one project for the regular Sunday School period. Additional crafts may be used for extended lessons, take-home activities, or seasonal programs.

### Craft 1 — St. Michael's Shield of Faith

Grades 4–8 | Easy–Moderate | 15–20 minutes | Low–Medium cleanup



**Materials:** Cardboard or heavy cardstock, metallic silver or gold paper, markers, scissors, glue, construction paper, and optional adhesive gems.

Directions:

- Cut a shield shape from cardboard or heavy cardstock.
- Cover the front with silver or gold paper.
- Place a large cross in the center.
- Write "Shield of Faith" across the top.
- Add Ephesians 6:16 to the bottom.
- Decorate the shield with Christian symbols.
- Attach a paper or cardboard handle to the back if desired.

Faith Connection: Michael is depicted as a heavenly defender. The shield reminds us that Christians stand firm in faith and trust God when facing temptation and difficulties.

## **Craft 2 — Gabriel's Annunciation Lily**

Grades 4–8 | Easy | 10–15 minutes | Low cleanup



**Materials:** White cardstock, green pipe cleaners, yellow paper, scissors, tape, and markers.

Directions:

- Trace a student's hand onto white cardstock and cut it out.
- Curl the paper fingers gently around a pencil to form flower petals.
- Roll the handprint into a lily shape and secure with tape.
- Attach a green pipe cleaner for the stem.
- Add a small yellow paper center.
- Create a tag reading "Behold the maidservant of the Lord!" — Luke 1:38.

Faith Connection: The white lily is a traditional symbol of the Annunciation. Gabriel brought God's message to Mary, who responded with humility and faith.

### **Craft 3 — Angels in Scripture Story Wheel**

Grades 4–8 | Moderate | 15–20 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials: Two cardstock circles per student, brass paper fasteners, scissors, colored pencils, markers, and printed Scripture references.

Directions:

- Divide the bottom circle into four sections.
- Illustrate four biblical events involving angels: Gabriel visiting Mary, angels announcing Jesus' birth, angels at the empty tomb, and Michael's battle against the dragon.
- Write the Scripture reference beside each picture.
- Cut a viewing window into the top circle.
- Fasten the circles together with a brass paper fastener.
- Rotate the wheel to reveal each biblical story.

Faith Connection: Angels appear throughout Scripture, always serving God's purposes and directing attention toward His work.

### **Craft 4 — Angel Messenger Hanging Ornament**

Grades 4–8 | Easy–Moderate | 15–20 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials: Cardstock, white and gold paper, yarn or ribbon, scissors, glue, markers, and optional tissue paper.

Directions:

- Cut an angel shape from cardstock.
- Add paper wings and decorate with gold accents.
- Create a small banner containing a Scripture verse.
- Suggested verses include Luke 2:10, Psalm 91:11, or Hebrews 1:14.
- Attach the banner beneath the angel.
- Punch a hole at the top and add ribbon for hanging.

Faith Connection: Angels are messengers of God. Their messages remind us of His promises, His holiness, and His love.

## EXTENDED CRAFT — HEAVENLY MESSENGER TRIPTYCH

Grades 5–8 | Extended | 45–60 minutes | Medium cleanup



Project: Create a three-panel standing artwork depicting Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, along with the biblical events associated with each.

A triptych is a work of art made of three connected panels. Triptychs have been used in Christian art for centuries to illustrate biblical events and the lives of saints.

Materials: Heavy cardstock or thin cardboard, watercolor paints, colored pencils, gold markers, glue, scissors, printed Scripture references, and optional gold paper.

Directions:

- Fold a large piece of card stock into three connected panels or join three separate panels with paper hinges.
- Label the left panel "St. Michael — Defender."
- Illustrate Michael with a shield and sword, representing his battle against evil.
- Add Revelation 12:7–9 beneath the illustration.
- Label the center panel "St. Gabriel — Messenger."
- Illustrate Gabriel bringing God's message to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Add Luke 1:26–38 beneath the illustration.
- Label the right panel "St. Raphael — Guide and Healer."
- Illustrate Raphael accompanying Tobias on his journey.
- Add Tobit 12:15 beneath the illustration.
- Decorate the borders with stars, crosses, and traditional illuminated manuscript patterns.
- Add the title "God's Heavenly Servants" across the top.

Faith Connection: Each archangel reminds us of a different aspect of service to God: faithfulness, obedience, guidance, and compassion.

Classroom Display Idea: Arrange the triptychs together under the title "Angels and Archangels — Faithful Servants of God."

## **Journaling — Grades 7–8**

Optional for Grades 5–6

Journal Theme: Serving God with Faith, Courage, and Obedience

Angels serve God faithfully, carrying out His commands and helping fulfill His purposes. Michael reminds us of courage, Gabriel of obedience, and Raphael of God's guidance and healing.

Ask students to reflect on the following:

1. Michael stood firm against evil. Describe a situation in which you might need courage to do what is right.
2. Gabriel faithfully delivered God's message to Mary. How can you become a better listener to God's Word?
3. Raphael helped guide and protect Tobias. Who in your life might need encouragement, kindness, or help?
4. Angels serve God without seeking attention or praise. Why is humility important in Christian service?
5. How does knowing that God rules over both Heaven and earth strengthen your faith?

Personal Challenge: Choose one act of service this week that reflects courage, obedience, or compassion. Write about what you plan to do and how it can honor God.

## **CLOSING REFLECTION**

Remind students that angels are not simply beautiful figures in paintings or decorations at Christmas. They are part of God's creation and appear throughout the Bible.

Michael teaches us to stand firm in faith.

Gabriel teaches us to listen and respond to God's Word.

Raphael reminds us of God's care and guidance.

Above all, the holy angels remind us to worship God, trust in His promises, and serve Him faithfully.

Closing Question: "If you could follow one example of faithful service from today's lesson, which would you choose and why?"

### **Closing Prayer**

*Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and earth, we thank You for Your holy angels who worship You and faithfully carry out Your will. Give us courage like Michael, obedience like Gabriel, and*

*compassion for others. Protect us from evil, guide us in Your truth, and help us serve You with joyful hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## TEACHER'S PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Lesson Preparation

0 of 6 completed.

- Review the appointed Scripture readings and 1928 BCP Collect
- Prepare images of Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael
- Gather materials for the selected craft.
- Print Scripture references and journaling prompts.
- Prepare a brief explanation of the Sanctus and heavenly worship.
- Select optional extended crafts or take-home activities.

### A Special Anglican Teaching Opportunity

For this particular lesson, I would make the Sanctus connection a memorable classroom activity. Ask students whether they recognize the words "Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven." Explain that these words are heard during Holy Communion, just before the congregation sings or says, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Then ask them to listen for those words when they return to church for Communion.

This helps students understand that angels are not only part of ancient Bible stories. The Church remembers their worship of God every time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

For the regular 35-minute class, my preferred craft would be St. Michael's Shield of Faith. It gives students something substantial to create and connects the lesson to their own daily Christian lives. The three-panel archangel triptych would be an excellent extended project for the older students.