

## Angels Program—Storytime

### Goals:

1. PPs will learn about angels
2. PPs will make connections to God's messengers.

### Objectives:

1. PPs will review 4 examples in which the Torah mentions angels
2. PPs will find similarities between the stories and their own lives
3. PPs will each make a quilt square depicting a scene or dream that relates to the discussion.

### Time Table:

00:00-00:10	PPs arrive in Beit Am and introduction to program
00:10-00:15	PPs split into groups
00:15-00:29	1 <sup>st</sup> discussion group
00:29-00:30	Rotate
00:30-00:44	2 <sup>nd</sup> discussion group
00:44-00:45	Rotate
00:45-00:59	3 <sup>rd</sup> discussion group
00:59-01:00	Rotate
01:00-01:14	4 <sup>th</sup> discussion group
01:14-01:19	Reconvene in Beit Am
01:19-01:29	Wrap-up

### Procedure:

- 00:00-00:10 PPs arrive in Beit Am and introduction to program
- Main GL says: **Hello Everyone! So...when was the last time you all had a real storytime? (pause to acknowledge hands, etc.)Well you're all in luck, because seeing as this weekend's theme is "Torah unwrapped" we've pulled together a few stories about angels that you may have forgotten or have never heard before! On your name tags you will find a number written in (color).**
  - If you have: 1-go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
2-go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
3- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
4- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
5 go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
6- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
7- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
8- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
9- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
10- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
11- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
12- go with \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

- 00:10-00:15 PPs split into groups
- 00:15-00:29 1<sup>st</sup> discussion group
- PPs sit facing GL
  - GL reads storybook to PPs
  - GL asks discussion questions about his/her story
    - \*see attached page
  - GL says: **Now that you've all started to explore a little bit about angels in the Torah, I'm going to give you all a piece of fabric and markers so that you can express something you thought about during this story. Don't fill up all of the space, because you'll be adding to your fabric square at each group. After you've finished hearing all four stories, we're going to put all of our fabric pieces together to make one giant quilt!**
  - GL passes out 1 fabric piece and markers to each PP
- 00:29-00:30 Rotate
- 00:30-00:44 2<sup>nd</sup> discussion group
- PPs sit facing GL
  - GL reads storybook to PPs
  - GL asks discussion questions about his/her story
    - \*see attached page
- 00:44-00:45 Rotate
- 00:45-00:59 3<sup>rd</sup> discussion group
- PPs sit facing GL
  - GL reads storybook to PPs
  - GL asks discussion questions about his/her story
    - \*see attached page
- 00:59-01:00 Rotate
- 01:00-01:14 4<sup>th</sup> discussion group
- PPs sit facing GL
  - GL reads storybook to PPs
  - GL asks discussion questions about his/her story
    - \*see attached page
  - GL Says: **Now that you've heard all four stories, you should all complete your fabric square in anyway you wish.**
- 01:14-01:19 Reconvene in Beit Am
- One PP from each group will bring fabric squares to pin on the quilt
- 01:19-01:29 Wrap-up
- Main GL says: **Dreams often relay messages from the subconscious in a similar way that angels relay messages to and from God. Hopefully you've all enjoyed unwrapping some stories about the often forgotten angels. You've all made some pretty awesome squares for our dreamy NFTY-NAR quilt! Does anyone want to share either something they learned or a connection they made?**

- Wait 10 seconds until someone raises their hands. Choose 3 volunteers to share.
- **Thanks guys! That was awesome!**

**Materials:**

- 1) white fabric cut into 7x7 inch squares
- 2) large pieces of white fabric uncut
- 3) safety pins: approx 600 (150x4)
- 4) paper w/rewritten stories from group leaders
- 5) newspaper/cardboard to leave on, marker will bleed through fabric
- 6) snack?! (goldfish, grahams, kid snack?)

**People:** \* 12 G, 10 pps/G, 4 St, 3 U

- 12 group leaders
- 2 time keepers/rovers
- 1-2 group leaders to lead universe wrap up/quilt share
- 2 people per universe to pin fabric squares

**Location:**

- 1) beit-am (universe 1)
- 2) Arts building—four rooms (universe 2)
- 3) Lower arts building rooms/basement (universe 3)

**Background: Separate Page**

**Stories and Discussion Questions**

**Abraham and the Three Angels**

Abraham and this wife, Sarah, were very lonely, because they had no children. Every day they asked God to send them a child. One day, as Abraham was sitting in the doorway of his tent, he saw three men walking in the hot sun. Abraham went to meet them and said:

“you must stop and rest in the shade of this tree. I will bring you water to wash your feet. And I will bring you bread to eat and cool milk to drink.” When the cakes were baked, Abraham took them to the men. After the men had eaten and rested, they stood up before Abraham and a great light shone all around them. “Behold!” cried one of the men, “We are angels of the Lord. Where is your wife, Sarah!” “She is in the tent!” said Abraham. “Go to her and tell her God will send her a son,” said the angel.

Abraham was filled with joy. He ran inside the tent and cried: “Sarah! Sarah! Those men who stopped here to eat and rest were the angels of the Lord! They say that God will send us a son!” Soon after this, God did send Abraham and Sarah a beautiful baby boy. They called the baby “Isaac.” Sarah was very happy. “You see,” she said to Abraham, “God has answered our prayers!”

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Was there anything in this story that seemed unfamiliar to you? Did something stick out that you’ve never really recognized before?
2. What purpose do you feel the angels played?
3. How can you connect to their purpose?
4. Is there anything in your life that acts as the angels did?
5. How can we create “messengers” for God? Are “messengers” really necessary? Are we the “messengers” ourselves?

#### **Jacob wrestles the Angel**

After many years, Jacob was going home. For he had heard the voice of God saying: “Take your family and your servants and all your flocks and go back to the land of Canaan.” Jacob set out on his journey with all his family. Behind them came the servants, with hundreds of sheep, goats, donkeys, and camels.

After several days, the travelers came near the land where Esau, Jacob’s brother, lived. Jacob sent some of his servants ahead to see Esau. “Tell my brother I hope he is no longer angry with me,” Jacob said. But the servants soon came back and said: “Your brother is coming to meet you with four hundred men!” Then Jacob divided his people into two camps. “If Esau attacks one camp, the other will be safe,” he thought.

Then he took his finest sheep and goats and said to her servants: “Take these to my brother as my gift. Tell him I am coming to meet him.” That night, Jacob could not sleep. He walked up and down in the moonlight outside his camp. Suddenly, he heard a noise behind him. Before he could turn around, a strong arm went around his shoulders. He was thrown to the ground. Then Jacob saw a man standing over him. The man was very tall and strong. “Who are you?” Jacob cried. But the man did not answer.

All night long, Jacob fought with this mighty man. Early in the morning, Jacob threw the man to the ground. But the man jumped to his feet. A great light shone all around him, and he cried out to Jacob: “*God’s blessing now I give to thee, For thou hast won the fight with me!*” Jacob knew that he had been wrestling with one of God’s angels. The angel spoke again: “*No longer Jacob shalt thou be, Thy name is Israel, proud and free!*” Then the angel was gone, and Jacob was alone. From that day on, Jacob was called Israel.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the purpose of angels in this story?

2. What messages were being sent? And to whom? (servants sending message to Esau, God sending message to Jacob)
3. Why was Jacob given the name Israel? What did he do to deserve it? What did Jacob prove by winning a fight with one of God's angels?
4. Has there ever been a time in which you felt you were fighting with an "unfamiliar man?" → an idea? Homework? Some interior struggle?
5. What did Jacob's struggle with the angel represent? Why was the angel sent to wrestle Jacob in the first place?

### **Adam and Eve's Wedding**

Adam and Eve were busy preparing for their big day. The serpent helped Adam get ready before the ceremony, while Eve was with the birds as she prepared herself.

While the bride and groom were busy with their animal friends, God and the angels began to get the ceremony organized. They were going to serve as exalted participants in the wedding celebration. They made ten huppahs for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Each was made of precious stones, pearls and gold. Before the ceremony began, the angels began to play their timbrels and to dance with pipes. God turned to the angels and said, "Come, let us descend and render acts of love to the first man and his wife, for the world rests upon acts of love." The angels went to and fro dancing before Adam and Eve as God completed the first mitzvah of marriage.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How are angels portrayed in this Midrash? What is their purpose? Do they succeed in accomplishing their purpose?
2. Has anyone heard this Midrash before? Why do you think it is an uncommon Midrash?
3. Why were the Angels exalted guests? What is an angel according to Judaism?
4. Who can you think of that acts similar to an angel? Or what's a way in which you've mirrored the job of the angels? → celebrating w/ bride and groom? Assisting someone to do something?
5. Can following commandments such as "celebrating w/ bride and groom" be a way for you to act as a messenger? → to God? To the married couple? (by relaying happiness/sending messages of approval?)

### **Jacob's Ladder**

Jacob, the son of Isaac and Rebecca, was on his way to visit his uncle, who lived far away in another country. Jacob walked all day long, and when night time came, he was very tired. He wished he were home, so he could sleep in his own bed. He felt very lonely. There was no place to lie down except the hard ground. Jacob's only pillow was a stone. But soon he was fast asleep. The bright stars twinkled kindly down upon him. The night was very still. Then, suddenly, Jacob woke up. He thought he heard music. But where could music be coming from so late in the night? Then Jacob's eyes opened wide! All around him shone a bright light. In the light, Jacob saw a great shining ladder that reached clear to heaven. Beautiful angels were going up and down the ladder, singing the most wonderful song Jacob had ever heard. *In the dark and still of night, Jacob saw a wondrous sight. Down a ladder reaching high, angels came from out the sky!* Then Jacob

heard the voice of God. "Do not be afraid," said God. "You are not alone. I shall be with you always." Then the ladder and the angels were gone. Jacob looked up at the bright stars. "I guess it was just a dream," he thought. But he did not feel lonely any more. He went back to sleep, and when he awoke, the sun was shining. Jacob remembered his dream. He knew that he would never be afraid again, because God had promised to be with him always. Jacob took the stone he had used for a pillow and set it by the side of the road, so that other travelers would see it as a sign of God's might and greatness. "Thank you, God," he said, "for always taking care of me."

### **Discussion Questions:**

6. Was there anything in this story that seemed unfamiliar to you? Did something stick out that you've never really recognized before?
7. What purpose do you feel the angels played?
8. How can you connect to their purpose?
9. Is there anything in your life that acts as the angels did?
10. How can we create "messengers" for God? Are "messengers" really necessary? Are we the "messengers" ourselves?

## **Background Info Sheet**

### **Abraham and the Three Angels**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

11. Was there anything in this story that seemed unfamiliar to you? Did something stick out that you've never really recognized before?
12. What purpose do you feel the angels played?
13. How can you connect to their purpose?
14. Is there anything in your life that acts as the angels did?
15. How can we create "messengers" for God? Are "messengers" really necessary? Are we the "messengers" ourselves?

#### **Quilt Directions:**

- Draw something or someone that has acted as an angel in disguise.
- You can draw the actual person/thing or you can express it in any way you want

- It may be an expression of the feeling you had or the situation in which it occurred

### **Jacob wrestles the Angel**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

6. What was the purpose of angels in this story?
7. What messages were being sent? And to whom? (servants sending message to Esau, God sending message to Jacob)
8. Why was Jacob given the name Israel? What did he do to deserve it? What did Jacob prove by winning a fight with one of God's angels?
9. Has there ever been a time in which you felt you were fighting with an "unfamiliar man?" → an idea? Homework? Some interior struggle?
10. What did Jacob's struggle with the angel represent? Why was the angel sent to wrestle Jacob in the first place?

#### **Quilt Directions:**

- Draw a picture of a recurring or important dream you've had
- it can be an expression of the feeling the dream evoked
- or the situation in which the dream occurred

### **Adam and Eve's Wedding**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

6. How are angels portrayed in this Midrash? What is their purpose? Do they succeed in accomplishing their purpose?
7. Has anyone heard this Midrash before? Why do you think it is an uncommon Midrash?
8. Why were the Angels exalted guests? What is an angel according to Judaism?
9. Who can you think of that acts similar to an angel? Or what's a way in which you've mirrored the job of the angels? → celebrating w/ bride and groom? Assisting someone to do something?
10. Can following commandments such as "celebrating w/ bride and groom" be a way for you to act as a messenger? → to God? To the married couple? (by relaying happiness/sending messages of approval?)

#### **Quilt Directions:**

- draw something that reveals a happy time in which someone helped you or made you feel good
- it could have been a time when someone supported with you or celebrated a joyous occasion with you
- or something happy that you've relayed to someone else

### **Jacob's Ladder**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

16. Was there anything in this story that seemed unfamiliar to you? Did something stick out that you've never really recognized before?

17. What purpose do you feel the angels played?
18. How can you connect to their purpose?
19. Is there anything in your life that acts as the angels did?
20. How can we create "messengers" for God? Are "messengers" really necessary?  
Are we the "messengers" ourselves?

**Quilt Directions:**

- Add something that represents your view of an angel/ the job of an angel
- Depict the sorts of things you do to act as a messenger
- Or you can draw a time when you think God might have been sending you some sort of message