

# 2

## Angels Among Us

*Genesis 18:1-22; 19:1-29*

Esther Maas, or Aunt Et as she is known to dozens of missionary kids around the world, was on her way to church on April 13, 1988. A short distance from home she was involved in a car accident. Almost immediately a man appeared at her van door. He took Esther's hand, and at his touch a comforting peace spread over her. The man was in his thirties, he wore tan work clothes and needed a shave. He asked one bystander to go to a nearby store and call 911. When Esther asked his name, he said he couldn't tell her his name but that she would be fine. The man stayed until the emergency crew arrived and then was gone. This man may not have been an angel, but his ministry fits with what we know from Scripture about what angelic care is like.

GROUP DISCUSSION. Imagine that you are responsible to hire a personal guardian angel. What job requirements would you list in the help-wanted ad?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Were you ever told that you had a "guardian angel"? How would you picture such a being?

In Abraham's day social custom required that strangers be treated as honored guests. One day he met three travelers, and what Abraham discovered would change his life. *Read Genesis 18:1-22.*

---

1. What facts from the text demonstrate that the three men who visited Abraham appeared to be normal human travelers (18:3-5)?

---

2. What evidence can you find in the passage that at least one of these men was a supernatural being?

---

3. *Read Genesis 19:1-29.* Two of the men who visited Abraham are now specifically identified as "angels" (19:1), yet they still appear very much like human men. Describe the supernatural actions of these two angels.

---

4. What can you learn from their actions about the power of angels?

5. What do you think would have happened to the two angels if Lot had not taken them in?

What would have happened to Lot if he had refused to welcome them?

---

6. In God's dealings with Abraham, Lot and the people of Sodom, how do the angels demonstrate God's judgment and God's mercy?

---

7. Who in this story do you most closely identify with and why—interceding Abraham, hesitant Lot (19:16), the rescuing angels, the mocking sons-in-law (19:14) or Lot's disobedient wife (19:17, 26)?

---

8. What do these verses reveal to you about how you may experience angels?

9. How receptive are you to the intervention of angels in your life? Explain your answer.

*Express your gratitude to God for creating angels as his mighty servants. Tell him that you are open to his intervention in your life—even through an angel!*

**Now or Later**

Read Hebrews 13:2. Should we expect to encounter angels, or is this an experience limited to only a few? Explain your conclusion.

What specific actions can you take to implement this command to “entertain strangers” more fully into your life?