


THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT ONE: GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH

Lesson 3:

God Made Angels

CONTENT:

1. God made angels. They are spirits. They do not have bodies like we have. (We have spirits and bodies.) [CCC327]
2. Angels are God's servants and messengers. Three special angels are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.
3. God has given each of us a 'guardian angel' to protect and guide us. [CCC336]
4. Angels sometimes appear to people. There are many instances in the Bible as well as throughout human history.
5. Saint Zita was helped by an angel, who baked the bread for her when she became so engrossed in prayer that she became late to do her job.
-  6. We can ask our guardian angel to help and protect us.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Learn the prayer to your guardian angel and say it every morning.

REFERENCES: CCC 328-336.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

- Let's look at what we have been doing at our Religion class up to now. What have we been learning and talking about?

[Allow children to look at their handouts and mention anything they have learnt.]

We have heard how God decided to share his love with people and how he made heaven and earth. Last time we heard something about heaven. Today we are going to find out more about angels.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

1. FACTS ABOUT ANGELS:

- What are angels? Are they people? [No!] People have bodies and spirits. (Spirit means the inner person which we cannot see.) You have a body which we can see and touch, and a spirit which we cannot see but is still you.
- Angels have no bodies, They are only spirits. That's why we cannot see them or touch them, even though they are near us. Just now there are at least (number of people in the class) angels here in this classroom, but we can't see them!
- Why did I say there are ... angels in this class? Because God has given each of us a guardian angel to take special care of us.
- Some people have seen angels. Sometimes God wants to give a message to someone or help someone in a special way. Then he lets us see them.

2. SHARING OF STORIES:

[Allow the children to share their stories about angels. If many have stories, then they could share with their partners and then a few could share with the class. If no one mentions it, talk about how the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, but briefly, as we will be doing the story at length at in a later lesson. If there is time, you could share the real experience of Joseph Summers (story attached)]

3. STORY OF SAINT ZITA:

I will tell you a true story about a girl called Zita and her angel.

Zita lived in Italy. Her parents were Catholics and holy people, but they were poor, so they sent Zita to work as a maid for a rich family.

Zita's mother used to tell her- 'Whatever you do, try to make God happy!' Zita tried to do just that! She did her work as well as she could and never grumbled when she was tired. She would give away her food to the poor hungry people who came knocking at her door. Sometimes when other servants forgot to do something, she would quietly do their work as well.

But the other servants used to be mean to her. They called her 'Miss Goody-Goody'. 'Zita thinks she's better than all of us!' They would say, and try to make trouble for her whenever they got the chance.

Every day Zita would wake up very early in the morning and go to church to pray. One day she was so busy praying and talking to Jesus that she got very late. She suddenly opened her eyes and said, 'Oh no! I've forgotten about the bread! The dough will all be spoilt and the family will be waiting for breakfast! What a foolish girl I am!

Zita ran all the way back to the house but she knew it would be too late.

Meanwhile, some of the servants saw that it was late and Zita had not come back from church. They said, 'Now is our chance to show Miss Goody-Goody!' They went to their mistress and said- 'That lazy Zita has not made the bread!' 'Yes... She's always praying and doesn't do her work!'

Suddenly they smelt the delicious smell of bread. (*Have you ever got that smell outside a bakery?*) They all went down to the kitchen and peeped inside. What do you think they saw?

An angel was busily taking out bread from the oven and putting the golden-brown loaves on the table! When the work was done, the angel disappeared!

When Zita reached home, puffing and panting, she saw that the bread was ready! She went to thank the other servants for helping her out, but they said- 'We didn't do it... God sent an angel to help you.'

After that, the others stopped troubling Zita, and she was put in charge of all the servants in the house. Many years later, Zita died, and people say that a big star shone outside her room and the church bells started ringing all by themselves. Maybe it was the same angels who were sent by God to ring the bells and tell everyone that Zita had gone to heaven!

On April 27th, we celebrate the feast of St. Zita. Many Catholics bake bread in their homes to remember Zita and how the angels helped her.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

God has given each of us a special angel to watch over us and help us do what God wants. Though you can't see your angel, you can still pray to him. Here's a prayer that children all over the world say in the morning. Big people can pray this prayer too! Let's learn this prayer.

[Give out handouts at this point.

Make sure the children understand the prayer well, explaining words like 'guardian' (a guard, who protects you, 'to light' (to help you understand when you are confused.

Make the Sign of the Cross together, then ask the children to pray after you.]

**Angel of God, my guardian dear,/ God's love for me has sent you here./
Ever this day be at my side,/ to light and guard/ to rule and guide.**

IV. ACTIVITY:

[Read the words on the sheet aloud, while the students follow. Share briefly about the archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (special powerful angels whom God sends on special jobs.)

Children could colour the picture if they like.]

Home assignment: Read the handout with someone at home. Learn the prayer to your guardian angel and say it every morning.