WEEK 4

Lucifer's Sad Choice



Big Idea: God is loving. He lets me choose.

Memory Verse

***"Be content with such things as you have"* (Hebrews 13:5a).**

Word of the Week

"Content" - When you are content, you are happy with what you have. You don't want or need any more.

This week's lesson

is based on **Isaiah 14:13, 14**; **Ezekiel 28:12-17**; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 33-43.

Sunday

Peace in Heaven

Long before God created our world and made Adam and Eve, He created some very special helpers. Angels! God made thousands and thousands of angels. They were wonderful, with powerful wings and a bright light that made them shine wherever they went.

Each angel had a special job. Some angels took messages from one side of heaven to the other. Other angels sang joyful worship songs in the heavenly choir. Some angels, called cherubim, stood next to God and covered Him with their wings as He sat on His beautiful throne. The angels were content, and they chose to work with a smile and a song.

Love was everywhere in heaven. God is love, and everyone in heaven followed His law of love, which showed them how to love Him and one another. Because of God's great love for all the angels, they chose to love Him too. They also loved each other. Their voices were always kind and gentle. Everyone only ever thought about bringing happiness to each other. What a wonderful place it was. Everyone was content.



I Wonder

» Which job do you think you would enjoy the most if you were an angel in heaven? A messenger, a singer in the choir, or a cherubim? Why?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the angels in heaven, and for the angels who keep watch over you.



Monday

The Shiniest Angel of All

Lucifer had a very important job to do. He was one of the cherubim angels that stood next to God and covered Him with his wings. Not only did he stand right next to God the Father, but the Bible says that he was the leader of all the other angels! (Ezekiel 28:14).

He was beautiful too. Lucifer means "shining one." The Bible says Lucifer shone as if covered by all kinds of precious stones, such as diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires. He sparkled as he stood next to God, with the light from God's throne shining on him. What else was Lucifer like? Read **Ezekiel 28:12**.

Lucifer was also the leader of the heavenly choir. Every day his beautiful voice led the worship songs, praising God. The angels gathered close as they listened to Lucifer sing with such loveliness. They burst into songs of praise to God and His Son too. How beautiful their songs must have sounded. They sang out loud words such as: "Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love continues forever" (Psalm 136:26, ICB). Nothing brings greater contentment than having God's joy in your heart!

God the Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit all loved the angels. In fact, they had so much love to give that they decided to make a new world. They talked and planned all the things they could create. It would be amazing!

I Wonder

» What is your favorite worship song to God?

» What special job might you choose to do for God this week?

Prayer Idea

What would you like to thank God for? Sing a song as a prayer of praise to God.

Do

Make a musical instrument. For example: rice or dry beans in a water bottle or two wooden spoons to tap together. Sing a praise song to God with your family/friends; then say Psalm 136:26 together.

Memory Verse



Tuesday

Seeds of Trouble

All of heaven was full of peace, joy, and kindness. God loved the angels very much, and they loved Him too. But one day something began to change in Lucifer's heart. A little selfish thought began to grow, like a tiny seed that grows into a weed. Lucifer started to think all about himself: me, me, me. What does the Bible say about it? Read the first part of **Ezekiel 28:17**.

Lucifer may have noticed the angels watching him with respect. Maybe he saw his reflection and admired his handsome face and sparkling robe. Maybe he heard his voice sing louder and stronger above the other angels.

As Lucifer thought more and more about himself, pride began to grow in his heart. He forgot that it was God who had given him his special jobs, his beauty, and his singing voice.

Sad things happen when we put ourselves first. We think we're going to be happier, but it doesn't turn out that way. We end up being discontented (which is the opposite of being content). That's why the Bible also asks us to "give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourselves" (Romans 12:10, ICB).

I Wonder

» What made Lucifer think differently from the other angels?

» Can you recite your memory verse yet?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you put others first, or ask God to help you "be content with such things as you have" (Hebrews 13:5a).

Do

Put the words "Others First" on display somewhere in your home. Look for ways to give others the biggest and the best this week. Think about mealtime, playtime, and helping around the home. This is God's way.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

Little Things Grow

Oh, how the angels could sing! Nothing brought the angels more joy than being before God's throne, singing sweet songs to their Creator and King.

Even Lucifer would forget about himself for a while, swept up in joyful singing. But as soon as the music hushed, his selfish thoughts would return.

When they worshipped God's Son, Lucifer became jealous. He thought to himself, *Why should God's Son be more important than me?*

He was not content anymore. From his place beside God's throne, Lucifer's jealousy of God's Son grew stronger and stronger. He thought: *Why can't I sit on the throne with God? Why wasn't I asked to help make decisions? I am smart and handsome. I am the leader of the angels. God isn't being fair to me!* What else did he think? Read **Isaiah 14:13, 14**.

If only Lucifer had talked to God about his bad thoughts and feelings. God always "takes care of all he has made" (Psalm 145:17, ICB). God would have happily and lovingly talked to Lucifer to change his doubts.

But instead Lucifer began to talk to the other angels. He even began to tell lies about God and His law. Oh, no! What bad, bad choices Lucifer was making.

God had always shown Lucifer lots of love. But now Lucifer thought only about himself. Lucifer had changed so much, but God stayed the same: always loving, always true.

I Wonder

» Do you ever want something that someone else has? What can you do when you feel that way?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you talk to Him when you feel sad or angry and to help you to make good choices.

Do

Draw a circle on a deflated balloon. Ask someone to slowly blow up the balloon. What happened to the size of the circle? How was Lucifer's pride like the circle, and the balloon?

Memory Verse





Thursday

The Enemy

Lucifer's selfishness puffed up like a balloon. Soon it was huge! It made him angry, jealous, and evil. He told lies about God, and caused trouble in heaven.

The Son of God knew exactly what Lucifer had been thinking, because "the Lord knows what is in every person's mind" (1 Chronicles 28:9, ICB). He tried to help Lucifer change. But it was too late. Lucifer refused to listen. No one was going to tell him what to do anymore!

Lucifer was proud of the trouble he was making in heaven. So many angels had believed his lies—they thought God was unfair and unkind. The angels who believed Lucifer's terrible lies were willing to fight against God.

This was a big problem! Lucifer had become the opposite of love, and only love could be in heaven. God had to do something. What does the Bible say happened? Read **Revelation 12:9**.

What a sad day it was! When Lucifer left heaven, his name became Satan—"the enemy." Next week we'll find out what Satan did next.

God is loving, so He lets us choose. He wants us to choose to follow Him. He will never force us to follow Him, but He hopes that we will choose to love Him with all our heart and put Him first.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you felt jealous or angry and turned to God for help. Share how the Holy Spirit changed your heart and actions.

I Wonder

» Why did Lucifer have to leave heaven?

» If you were one of God's angels, what would you have said to try to convince Lucifer to turn back to God?

Prayer Idea

Say your memory verse, then tell God what you want to say about what you have learned this week.

Memory Verse

Friday

Nala Says, "Me First!"



"No, it's not the right green for my Book Day costume," 5-year-old Nala cried, snatching the fabric from her mother's hands. "It has to be the most beautiful!"

Nala's mother sighed. Book Day was supposed to be a fun day, when all the kids could dress up as a character from their favorite book. Nala had chosen a crocodile, and Mother had happily saved boxes and foil so they could make a costume together. Then Nala discovered her friend was dressing as a princess. "She'll look prettier than I will," Nala had wailed. Then she changed to a cat, a crayon . . . and finally, right at the last minute, a caterpillar!

"Nala," Mother said, her voice sad, "you have so many good things. Many kids don't even have books, let alone dress-ups. Why can't you be content with what you have?"

"Because I want all the kids to know mine is the best," said Nala angrily. "You have to make this the best, or I'll tell everyone it's all your fault!" With that, Nala stomped off to bed.

Mother sneezed and slumped into a chair. She was so tired. Visitors were coming to stay, and she had been up late making half of Nala's new costume. She sneezed again.

When morning came, Nala found Mother in bed, pale, coughing, and terribly unwell. "Oh, Mother, I'm so sorry," said Nala, looking at her finished costume on the bed. "You are such a kind mother! I should have been happy with the crocodile. And now you're so very sick. What can I do?" Big tears fell down her cheeks.

"Let's pray," whispered Mother with a soft smile. "Dear God, please help us to always come to You when we feel as if we have to be first or best, no matter what. Help us to love You and others more than ourselves."

One much happier "caterpillar" decided she would do just that from now on.

What about you? Read **Philippians 4:11, 12**. We can learn to be happy with what we have too. How? The answer is in verse 13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Family Journal

» Draw something that makes you happy and content.
» Whom can you go to when you have selfish or angry thoughts?
» Are there any hurtful words or actions you'd like to say you're sorry for?

For You, Parents

"From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, [will] declare that God is love" (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 678).

God's Happy, Helping Angels

Draw and color in fun!

Draw and color a picture of one of God's angels.

God loves us so much that He sends His angels to care for us, protect us, and help us. The Bible says, "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" (Psalm 34:7).

In the space to the right or on another piece of paper, draw and color a picture of one of God's angels. But first, read these Bible clues about God's faithful, helping angels.

• **What do they look like?** In the Bible, angels are very bright! They look as bright as lightning and bright fire (Matthew 28:3; Ezekiel 1:13, 14).

• **What about their clothes?** Matthew saw an angel with "clothing as white as snow" (Matthew 28:3). The covering angel, which had been Lucifer, was colorful, like bright-blue sapphires, red jasper, yellow topaz, and green beryl (Ezekiel 28:13). How will you color your angel?

• **Angels are fast (Daniel 9:21) and have wings to fly (Exodus 25:20).** The Bible describes one type of angel as having six wings (Isaiah 6:2). The Bible describes another angel as having a sword (1 Chronicles 21:27).

• **What do they do?** "All the angels . . . serve God and are sent to help those who will receive salvation" (Hebrews 1:14, ICB). The Bible tells us they obey God and do what He asks (Psalm 103:20). Thank God for His happy, helping angels (Matthew 18:10).