

Match the angels' roles

Match each story summary (the number) with the role of the angel in the story (using the letters) and with the reference for the story in the Bible (the shapes). If you think more than one angel role fits the story, look carefully at them all to get the best answer for each one.

Story summary	Angel role	Bible reference
1. Peter escapes from prison	A. Messenger of God	★ Daniel 6:22
2. God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions	B. Offering support and comfort	▲ Luke 2:13-15
3. Mary is told that she is going to have baby Jesus	C. Worshipping God	■ Acts 12: 6-10
4. The shepherd's heard the angels singing praises to God	D. Help and protection	● Luke 22:41-44
5. An angel strengthened Jesus as he prepared to die	E. Working a miracle	◆ Luke 1:26-33

Your answers:

Number	Letter	Shape
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Match the angels' roles - extra activity

If you have spare time, you may like to look up the following stories in the Bible and to think what role the angel has in each of them, A-E.

Choose from the following angel roles:

1. Messenger of God
2. Offering support and comfort
3. Worshipping God
4. Help and protection
5. Working a miracle.

A — Exodus 3:2 The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses as a burning bush

Your answer(s): _____

B — Judges 6:11-12 The angel of the Lord appears and speaks to Gideon

Your answer(s): _____

C — Judges 6: 20-22 The angel of the Lord makes fire consume meat and bread

Your answer(s): _____

D — 1 Kings 19: 5-8 The angel tells Elijah to get up and eat

Your answer(s): _____

E — Luke 15: 8-10 Angels in heaven rejoice when one person turns to God

Your answer(s): _____

F — Revelation 5:11-12 Thousands of angels are singing praise to Jesus

Answer(s): _____

Match the angels' roles

ANSWERS:

1 – E – ■

2 – D – ★

3 – A – ◆

4 – C – ▲

5 – B – ●

Answers to the extra activity:

A - Messenger of God (also Working a miracle)

B - Offering support and comfort (also Messenger of God)

C - Working a miracle

D - Offering support and comfort (also Messenger of God, also Help and protection)

E - Worshipping God

F - Worshipping God

Put the Bible stories in order!

Task:

To put these stories in order. Each of the Bible stories (and references) involves an angel!

Note for teachers:

Some children, who know their Bible reasonably well, may be able to put the stories in order even without the Bible references. They are given below with *and* without the Bible reference.

Alternatively, you may wish to ask them just to identify which events happened in the Old Testament and which in the New Testament. Again, these are given with and without references.

References relating to the birth of Jesus (Christmas) have also been set out separately, so that you could ask them to remember that story and to sequence the events.

See the following pages for the variety of options on this theme.

Pages 2 & 3	Putting the Bible stories in order (no references given)
Pages 4 & 5	Putting the Bible stories in order (references given)
Page 6	Putting the Christmas story in the right order
Page 7	Blank squares for picture version of Christmas story
Pages 8 & 9	Putting the Bible stories into Old and New Testament groups (no references given)
Pages 10 & 11	Putting the Bible stories into Old and New Testament groups (references given)
Page 12	Answers

Put the following Bible quotations in order of when they appear in the Bible

Tips:

Remember the Old Testament comes *before* the New Testament. The Old Testament is the time before Jesus was born and you may recognise the names of some of its characters.

The New Testament starts with Jesus' life then tells of the lives of his disciples. After that it includes letters to churches or individual Christians. It ends with a book called Revelation, which talks about heaven and when Jesus will come back again.

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2 Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two **angels** in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

3 There the **angel** of the LORD appeared to Moses in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

4 I looked and heard the voice of many **angels**, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"

5 Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose a woman has 10 silver coins and loses one... And when she finds it ...she says: 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way... there is rejoicing in the presence of the **angels** of God over one sinner who repents."

6 [Paul is on a ship in a storm]. Paul says: "...keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an **angel** of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said 'Do not be afraid, Paul.'"

7 There were shepherd living out in the fields ...An **angel** of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The **angel** said: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy..." When the **angels** had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, " Let's go to Bethlehem and see..."

8 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. [At dawn the king called to Daniel to see if he was OK]. Daniel answered: "...My God sent his **angel**, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me..."

Additional Bible quotations that can be included for ordering

9 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an **angel** of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. ... Peter followed the **angel** out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the **angel** was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. [When the **angel** had left him] Peter said: "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his **angel** and rescued me from Herod's clutches..."

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran... Jacob had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the **angels** of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying."

11 Praise the LORD, all his **angels**, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him sun and moon, praise him all you shining stars.

12 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained **angels** without knowing it.

13 The **angel** of the LORD came and sat down under the oak... When the **angel** of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

14 The Holy City, Jerusalem... shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve **angels** at the gates.

15 [Jesus went to the Mount of Olives, to the Garden of Gethsemane, and prayed.] An **angel** from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

16 Elijah lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an **angel** touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The **angel** of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by the food, he traveled for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

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2 Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two **angels** in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. *John 20:11-12*

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15 [Jesus went to the Mount of Olives, to the Garden of Gethsemane, and prayed.] An **angel** from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. *Luke 22: 43*

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Put the following parts of the Christmas story in the right order

- A An angel appears to the shepherds and tells them that baby Jesus has been born and that they will find him lying in a manger
- B The angel Gabriel appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him not to be afraid to marry Mary because the baby she is going to have is from God.
- C The shepherds visit the baby and then tell everyone what they have seen and heard
- D Jesus is born
- E Lots and lots of angels appear in the sky singing praises to God.
- F The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her that she is going to have a very special baby son and to call him Jesus

If you have time, why not use the extra sheet to draw 6 pictures, one for each part of the story? You could also write part of the story underneath the pictures.

The birth Of Jesus

1	2
3	4
5	6

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those from the Old Testament and those from the New Testament**

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Answers

Putting the Bible quotations in order:

Using 1-8 only: 3 8 1 7 5 2 6 4

Using 1-16: 10 3 13 16 11 8 1 7 5 15 2 9 6 12 4 14

Putting the Bible quotations into Old and New Testament:

Old Testament: 3 8 10 11 13 16

New Testament: 1 2 4 5 6 7 9 12 14 15

Ordering the Christmas story:

F B D A C E

Writing a prayer

Task:

Think of someone you know, or a part of the world, that needs God's help.

Write a prayer asking for God to help in that situation.

My prayer

What if God was one of us?

Task:

If you have a copy available, listen to the song by Joan Osbourne called 'If God was one of us...'. (The words are on a separate sheet.)

Following your teacher's guidance, discussing in groups or considering on your own, answer the questions below.

Questions:

- 1 If you met God on a bus, what would you most want to ask him? What would be your one question?
- 2a When you think of God, what do you think he is like? What are the characteristics which come to mind first?
- 2b Which of these aspects of his character do you think you would recognise first if you met God on a bus? How would he demonstrate them?
- 2c How does this image of God compare to the image you have of Jesus, and what you know of Jesus' life?
- 3 Jesus was God living on the earth. Do you think this was an easy thing for God to do, or a difficult thing? (Older groups could look at Philippians 2 to discuss this further)
- 4 As much as possible, Christians try to act as God would act. Looking at the good characteristics of God that you have identified in question 2, which ones do you think are easiest to copy? Which ones do you think are hardest?

If you knew that someone who *seemed* ordinary was actually God, would you treat them differently? Is this a good thing or not?

If God was one of us

(Joan Osbourne)

If God had a name, what would it be?
And would you call it to his face
If you were faced with him in all his glory
What would you ask if you had just one question
And yeah yeah God is great yeah yeah God is good
yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah
What if God was one of us
Just a slob like one of us
Just a stranger on the bus
Trying to make his way home
If God had a face what would it look like
And would you want to see
If seeing meant that you would have to believe
In things like heaven and in Jesus and the saints and all the prophets
And yeah yeah God is great yeah yeah God is good
yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah
What if God was one of us
Just a slob like one of us
Just a stranger on the bus
Trying to make his way home
He's trying to make his way home
Back up to heaven all alone
Nobody calling on the phone
Except for the pope maybe in Rome
And yeah yeah God is great yeah yeah God is good
yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah
What if God was one of us
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