

A WEIRD ANGEL IN OUR MIDST

by Pamela Diane Gibson



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A WEIRD ANGEL IN OUR MIDST

By Pamela Diane Gibson

INTRODUCTION

The following was an idea born on an early Sunday morning immediately prior to Christmas. I had planned what I felt was a reasonably creative but somewhat predictable children's message for that morning around the Christmas story from Luke 2:8. It suddenly occurred to me that instead of talking about an angel, I might instead have a real angel appear. I immediately typed out a script and one phone call later had recruited an angel for that same morning: a wonderfully flexible, dramatically gifted member of our congregation. After his exit, one child commented that he sure was a "weird angel," and thus our children christened their angel with his own name.

What follows are the scripts from subsequent angel appearances. The part of the children's minister is written for a woman, but can be changed to suit your needs. There will be those whose high view of liturgy and strong views about the institution will cause them to see these angelic visits as "too much silliness." Yet, the important thing to remember about finding an angel in our midst is that angels are intended to be messengers from God, placed often unexpectedly amongst us. This angel's unusualness is what often has given him a theological and prophetic edge, allowing him the freedom to say what many pastors might fear to say. Most importantly, all that is taught in these scripts is shared with a joyful sense of God's tremendous, loving call to each of us!

I hope and pray that these may be used to God's glory in the life of God's church.

— *Pamela Diane Gibson*

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WEIRD ANGEL # 1

The Christmas Angel

- CAST:** Weird Angel (Dressed in white robe and crooked halo. The halo can be made of wire and garland. It's important that it be worn off center. This is not your traditional angel! The angel needs to have his Angel union card with him.)
 Children's Minister
 Children
 Organist or Pianist (To play a few chords or fluttery notes at the appropriate time)
- CONTEXT:** This script, unlike the others, assumes that this is the very first time that the angel has visited your church. This is intentional, since God used an angel as a messenger at the birth of Jesus, and most children will remember that and make that association. This script also provides a natural entry point even for people who might initially resist a dramatic interruption during worship.
- PROPS:** empty manger (or possibly a baby bed)
 banner with message, "He came, bringing love."
 (Banner should be inside the manger. This banner can be as simple as you want. It could be a message hand-written on a large piece of newsprint or a felt banner that could later be hung somewhere where the children will be.)
 3" x 5" Angel union card. (Can be typed or printed to say: "Wingless Angel First Class," signed, "Angels' Union # 101.")
 Bibles

1 **AT RISE:** The children are invited to come forward for a
 2 time of sharing.

3

4 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** You know, the Christmas story
 5 is one of my very favorite stories in the Bible. In fact,
 6 I like it so well, I thought we could just take a minute
 7 or two and read it this morning.

8 "And in that region there were shepherds out in
 9 the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And
 10 an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of
 11 the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with
 12 fear. And the angel said:

13 **ANGEL:** *(Without missing a beat in the reading of the*
 14 *scripture, steps out immediately as if making an*
 15 *announcement.)* "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you
 16 good news of a great joy, which will come to all the
 17 people; for to you is born this day in the city of
 18 David, a savior, who is Christ the Lord."

19 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** I can't believe this. Here we are
 20 minding our own business, reading scripture, and this
 21 so-called angel comes out and interrupts us. How rude!
 22 *(ANGEL ignores the CHILDREN'S MINISTER'S*
 23 *comment.)* How do we know that you're a *real* angel?

24 **ANGEL:** Let me ask you — would you wear an outfit like
 25 this if you didn't have to? *(Looks at CHILDREN'S*
 26 *MINISTER.)* Now that I think about it, you just might
 27 wear an outfit like this. Well, I can *prove* that I'm an
 28 angel — here's my angel union card. *(Hands CHILDREN'S*
 29 *MINISTER a card.)*

30 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** *(Reads out loud.)* Wingless Angel
 31 First Class. You're a *First-Class Angel*? You sure are
 32 weird-looking to be a first-class angel.

33 **ANGEL:** Careful, careful — I have *big* connections! *(Looks*
 34 *up. Organ plays a chord.)*

35 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** OK, OK, I get your point. Well,

1 as long as you're here, I'd like to ask you a few questions.
 2 Just what's the big deal that you made back then
 3 about a baby being born? Babies are born every day.

4 ANGEL: But this one wasn't like other babies. (*Looks at*
 5 *children.*) This baby was God's Son, Jesus Christ.
 6 Whenever you know that someone special is coming to
 7 your house, you probably do special things to get
 8 ready. Well, God wanted the world to get ready for his
 9 Son's birth, so he was letting people know through me.
 10 Jesus was coming to show us God's special love for
 11 each of us.

12 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Which brings me to another
 13 confusing point. Just how did they know that this was
 14 the baby that God was sending? Even back then, there
 15 were lots of babies born. How did they know that
 16 this wasn't just any old baby lying in the manger?

17 ANGEL: Hey, you cut me off before I finished. If you'd
 18 let me finish my angel message, you would have known.
 19 (*Continues reading.*) "And this will be a sign for you.
 20 You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
 21 lying in a manger." God even had a special star
 22 to guide people to Jesus.

23 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: OK, I can follow that. But I
 24 happen to know that this event took place a couple of
 25 thousand years ago, and there won't be any baby
 26 lying in this manger this year. (*Gestures towards empty*
 27 *manger*) We're going to have an empty manger on our
 28 hands!

29 ANGEL: Jesus may not be born in the manger this year,
 30 but there's a message in the manger just the same.
 31 Would one of you children like to help me look in
 32 the manger? (*CHILD volunteers and goes to manger.*
 33 *Finds felt banner of paper scroll inside that says:*
 34 *"He came, bringing love."*)

35 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: I don't get it.

1 ANGEL: Remember, I came here today to bring news of
2 great joy; Jesus' love can still be born in each person's
3 heart here! Well, that's enough for today. I know that
4 an angel's first appearance can be pretty traumatic, so
5 I like to keep it short. Besides, I like to use the very
6 same exit line I had two thousand years ago — and if I
7 do say so myself, it's a doozey!

8 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: (*Suspiciously*) Oh, yeah —
9 what's that?

10 ANGEL: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace
11 to *all* people! (*Looks at children.*) Blessings to each of
12 you! (*Puts arm around CHILDREN'S MINISTER.*)
13 And blessings this Christmas on you, too! Glory to
14 God in the highest! (*Exits.*)

15 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: You know, that's really something
16 to have an angel come right here to be with us! I have
17 to admit I didn't like him coming here and getting in
18 the way of what I was doing. But I think he had a point.
19 We get so busy getting ready for Christmas — buying
20 presents or putting up the tree — that we forget what
21 God's message really was. Jesus is born every year in our
22 hearts. That's pretty important news. And it took an
23 angel to tell it two thousand years ago, and it took an
24 angel to remind us today. That's something to give
25 God a big thank-you for. I'd like each one of you to take
26 time today with your families at home to thank God
27 for sending Jesus — OK? Thanks for coming down.

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WEIRD ANGEL # 2
The Easter Angel

- CAST:** Weird Angel (Dressed in a white robe and crooked halo. The halo can be made of wire and garland.)
 Children's Minister
 Children
 Congregation
- CONTEXT:** The Weird Angel has made one appearance prior to this at Christmas time. Many children and adult members will remember his appearance. The script builds upon that previous experience.
- PROP:** A large (papier mâché) tombstone big enough for the angel to hide behind. This will need to be positioned in a place where the angel can crawl behind it, without being seen, just prior to the children's time.

1 **AT RISE:** The children are invited to come forward for a
 2 time of sharing. As the children come to the front of
 3 the sanctuary, the angel can be positioning himself
 4 behind the tombstone. If the sanctuary is large enough
 5 and sound is a problem, a microphone will be needed
 6 for both the CHILDREN'S MINISTER and the
 7 ANGEL. Depending on your situation, one or two hand-
 8 held microphones can be used.

9

10 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** We're going to talk about the
 11 Easter story today. You see, this last Friday was Good
 12 Friday — that's the day they crucified Jesus. They hung
 13 him from a cross and he died. That was a very sad
 14 day for everyone, because they thought their leader
 15 was dead. And this was a very special man. He had told
 16 them about God's love in a way that no one had ever
 17 told them before. He performed miracles. He loved
 18 people with a stronger love than anyone had ever seen
 19 or felt before.

20 So on Sunday morning . . . well, let me read
 21 it to you from the Bible. "And behold, there was a great
 22 earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from
 23 heaven and came and rolled back the stone and said:

24 **ANGEL:** "Hi-Ho!"

25 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Oh, no. (*Looks concerned.*)
 26 Where'd that come from?

27 **ANGEL:** Back here.

28 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Do you kids know where that
 29 noise is coming from?

30 **ANGEL:** Let me out!

31 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** (*Rolls back the stone; slight*
 32 *disgust in tone.*) Oh, no, do you know who this is? It's
 33 the angel. You were here at Christmastime, telling us
 34 about the birth of Jesus. I can't believe they sent you
 35 back here. Not only have we been interrupted again,

1 but they sent us the same weird-looking angel they
2 sent last time.

3 ANGEL: Hey, wait a minute. I don't know why you're
4 calling me weird, but I only get the *best* dramatic
5 angel assignments. They want someone with a little
6 flair. (*Stands regally. Steps forward and stretches.*)
7 Gad, I'm glad to be out of that tomb. I'm glad I didn't
8 have to wait on you folks the first Easter morning.
9 *Those* women came to the tomb bright and early.
10 And you people — this service has gone on and on. I
11 had no idea you'd sing and talk so much. I was really
12 getting afraid I might miss my angel brunch.

13 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Well, why did you come *this*
14 time?

15 ANGEL: To tell you that Jesus is risen!

16 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Hey — we knew that. Haven't
17 you been listening? We knew that was going to happen
18 and we're ready. I mean, look at this place.

19 ANGEL: (*Looks out at the congregation.*) Yeah — there
20 are a lot of people here. Do all these people come
21 regularly?

22 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Well . . .

23 ANGEL: I see. Well, getting back to the subject at hand.
24 . . . You see, I've been sitting back here the whole
25 service, and there's not much gusto!

26 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Gusto — what do you mean?
27 This place is full of gusto — new dresses and new
28 suits. We've shined things up. All these choirs. Everyone's
29 been practicing. This is *big* time.

30 ANGEL: Big time for Broadway maybe — but no gusto from
31 the heart. You see, Jesus is risen! That's big news.
32 Jesus may have died on the cross, but he didn't stay
33 dead. God's power is bigger than death. God's love is
34 stronger than anything.

35

1 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: So what do you want from us?
 2 ANGEL: It's not me, it's the Big Guy upstairs. God wants
 3 disciples. God wants people who aren't just shined up on
 4 the outside, but who are shined up on the inside.
 5 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: What do you mean?
 6 ANGEL: Well, when you leave the sanctuary, God needs
 7 people to live as if Jesus is still with us. We need to live
 8 as if we've heard. We need to be loving people with
 9 Christ's love. *Have you heard?*
 10 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Heard what?
 11 ANGEL: *That Jesus is risen. He's alive!* Have you boys and
 12 girls heard? *(Pauses.)* Come on, let's show people we've
 13 heard. Let's shout — *Jesus is risen — He's alive.*
 14 *(Kids shout after the ANGEL.)* Hey, I've got to go
 15 now. I've got to make one more stop before the
 16 Heavenly Brunch. Don't forget when you leave the
 17 sanctuary: Jesus is risen. Jesus is alive — and that makes
 18 a difference in your life. Goodbye!
 19 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: *(Waving)* Goodbye, weird angel.
 20 You know, I hate to admit it, but this angel has a point.
 21 We need to be showing people the love God showed us
 22 in Jesus. Right? Let's see if the big people heard, too.
 23 We can all shout together — Jesus is risen! He's alive!
 24 Ready, big people? *(Kids and congregation shout:*
 25 *"Jesus is risen, he's alive!")*
 26 That's terrific. Thanks for coming down!
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WEIRD ANGEL #3
The Back-to-School Angel

CAST: Weird Angel (Dressed in white robe and crooked halo. The halo can be made of wire and garland. The Angel is wearing the backpack and carrying the lunchbox.)

Children's Minister

Children

Congregation

CONTEXT: The Weird Angel has made appearances prior to this time. Many children and adult members will remember this. The script builds upon that previous experience. If the script is to be used without a previous appearance, a few simple modifications would make it appropriate for your setting.

PROPS: lunchbox
backpack with items inside (paper heart, paper ears, paper hands, picture of two friends)

1 **AT RISE:** The children are invited to come forward for a
2 time of sharing.

3

4 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** We're going to talk about
5 something that most of you go to every weekday.
6 This goes on for nine months every year, and many
7 of you started back to this a couple of weeks ago.
8 Any ideas?

9 **BRIGHT KID:** School!

10 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** That's right, school.

11 **ANGEL:** (*WEIRD ANGEL enters skipping from the back*
12 *of sanctuary wearing robe, halo, and carrying backpack*
13 *on his back. In a singsong voice and skipping down the*
14 *aisle, the ANGEL says:)*

15

16 Ring around the rosey,
17 a pocket full of posies;
18 Ashes, ashes,
19 We all fall down!

20

21 (*As the ANGEL finishes the rhyme, he falls on the floor*
22 *or does a slow baseball "slide" toward the children.)*

23

24 (*Begins fading somewhere in here, as he approaches*
25 *the front of the sanctuary and CHILDREN'S*
26 *MINISTER interrupts.)*

27

28 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** (*Slight impatience in voice and*
29 *manner*) Wait a minute. Wait a minute. What's this?

30 The weird angel's back. I thought we were rid of you.

31 **ANGEL:** Rid of me! What kind of attitude is that? You
32 are being *graced* by my presence! (*Big smile. Looks*
33 *pleased.*)

34 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** (*Slight look of disgust*) We seem
35 to look at that differently. (*ANGEL gives hurt puppy*

1 *look.*) Now, I sort of understood why you felt you
2 needed to come here for Christmas. And I could see
3 your connection with Easter. But it's September.
4 No big deal. This isn't a holiday. I really thought we could
5 get through September in peace. Just what are you doing
6 here?

7 ANGEL: Why, this month, I'm the official Back-to-School
8 Angel.

9 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: The Back-to-School Angel . . .

10 OK, just what is the Back-to-School Angel?

11 ANGEL: Well, it seems to me that department stores have
12 been cornering some of our holidays, and it was
13 time for action. They've taken perfectly good holidays,
14 like Easter and Christmas, and turned them into big
15 bucks days. So, we in heaven are taking things into our
16 own hands. We've seen their back-to-school sales and
17 back-to-school specials and back-to-school celebrations —
18 so we're having "Back-to-School Sunday," featuring
19 the Back-to-School Angel. (*Big smile, gesture, touch of*
20 *fanfare*)

21 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Has this been tried in other
22 places?

23 ANGEL: No, you're our trial market. You're the very first
24 to have me, the official Back-to-School Angel.

25 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: (*Dryly*) How fortunate for all
26 of us. Just what does the Back-to-School Angel do?

27 ANGEL: He brings a "Back-to-School Survival Kit."
28 (*Takes off and opens backpack. Holds each object up*
29 *as he shares.*) Inside, there's a heart — for loving other
30 people, like teachers and friends. There are ears — to
31 remind us to listen and learn. There are hands — to
32 remind us that hands are used for playing and for
33 helping. And there are friends — because friends help
34 each other get through the days and friends help us
35 to laugh.

1 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: (*Counts on fingers.*) Heart, ears,
 2 hands, friends . . . hmmm. . . We all have hearts; we
 3 all have ways that we can listen and learn; we all have
 4 ways to play and to help. And we all have friends.
 5 Hey — we have *all* those things.

6 ANGEL: I know — that's the beauty of my kit. You've got
 7 it all already — free. That's what's going to give us an
 8 edge on the department stores. These kits came straight
 9 from our big manufacturer upstairs — God. God gave us
 10 these things to help us out. God sent me to remind
 11 us and wants the best for us. God sent me to remind
 12 each of you to use what you have in your kit to share
 13 God's love, even at school. (*Puts backpack on.*) Well,
 14 I've got to go now. On to another market. I'm the
 15 regional sales manager, you know. (*Puffed up chest*)
 16 Quite a responsibility. Goodbye. (*Starts back down the*
 17 *aisle, singing.*)

18
 19 Ring around the rosey,
 20 a pocket full of posies;
 21 Ashes, ashes
 22 We all fall down!

23
 24 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: (*Waves.*) Goodbye, weird angel.
 25 You know, as much as I hate to admit it, that angel
 26 was right again. God's given all of us special ways to
 27 love and help and play. We'll need to remember that
 28 at school this year. Thanks for coming!

WEIRD ANGEL #4
Mother's Day/Vacation Angel

CAST: Weird Angel (Dressed in white robe and crooked halo. The halo can be made of wire and garland. The angel is wearing the swim flippers on his feet; is loaded down with the golf clubs, tennis racket and fishing pole. These can be carried from the shoulder or attached to him in some fashion so that his hands are free to take pictures with the camera. He is to look loaded down, touristy and quite silly!)

Children's Minister
 Children
 Congregation

CONTEXT: As with the other scripts, this script assumes that the angel has made a prior appearance and builds upon that experience. With a few minor changes, this script could be modified for a single appearance.

PROPS: camera
 golf clubs
 tennis racket
 fishing pole
 swim flippers

1 *AT RISE:* Children are invited to come forward for a time
2 of sharing.

3

4 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Today's a very special day at
5 some of our homes, where we remember a special
6 person in our lives. Does anyone know what day it is?

7 **SMART KID:** Mother's Day! (*ANGEL'S cue*)

8 **ANGEL:** (*Entering from back with camera. Speaks loudly*
9 *and starts taking pictures. Makes way down aisle as he's*
10 *speaking.*) That's right — it's Mother's Day. A great
11 day to have a few shots taken of that special someone
12 to give to mom. Only \$149.95 for a wallet-sized photo.
13 Oh — this is an attractive couple. Could you smile for
14 me, sir? Thank you. I'll be in touch. And oh, what
15 a lovely dress, ma'am. I know your husband will
16 *always* want a picture of you in that dress. Thank you.
17 (*Pauses — looks up front, arms outstretched.*) And the
18 children. Oh — the children. We want lots and lots of
19 pictures of the children. (*Looks at the congregation.*)
20 Remember, only \$149.95 for one wallet-sized picture.
21 (*Moves around, taking pictures.*)

22 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Hold it. Wait a minute. Stop
23 that right now!

24 **ANGEL:** Stop what?

25 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Stop taking pictures.

26 **ANGEL:** But why? They make such nice presents. (*Comes*
27 *and stands next to CHILDREN'S MINISTER.*)

28 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Well, for one thing, you're
29 interrupting our worship service. But for another, we
30 can't have you selling and collecting money for
31 pictures here in the sanctuary.

32 **ANGEL:** Sure, you can. I don't have an eight hundred
33 number yet, but you haven't taken the offering this
34 morning, and people can just slip the \$149.95 in one
35 of those envelopes in the pews and mark it "Angel

- 1 Picture." Be sure to enclose your name, address, how
2 many copies you want and a self-addressed envelope.
- 3 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Enough. We can't have you selling
4 something in this sanctuary.
- 5 ANGEL: Are you worried about the price?
- 6 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: No — well, I mean, yes, the price
7 is high, but that's not the point.
- 8 ANGEL: \$149.95 is a steal.
- 9 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Why a steal? I can get a wallet-
10 sized photo much cheaper than that.
- 11 ANGEL: Well, actually the picture costs 95 cents.
- 12 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Then what's the other \$149.00 for?
- 13 ANGEL: Postage and overhead. Do you know how tough
14 it is to find a darkroom in heaven? Then we've got
15 airfreight expenses. It's not a cheap operation. And I'm
16 just getting started.
- 17 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Look, first of all, people are not
18 going to pay that for an angel picture, regardless of
19 where it comes from. And secondly, you can't sell things
20 in worship.
- 21 ANGEL: (*Looks troubled.*) That looks vaguely familiar.
- 22 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: You can't sell things because
23 we're all here to worship God — to focus on God and
24 to give God the glory for all that God has given us.
25 This is a worship service, and it's for God!
- 26 ANGEL: Angel 101.
- 27 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Excuse me?
- 28 ANGEL: Angel 101 — I learned that in Angel 101. I knew
29 I had heard it before. Well, you're absolutely right. I'm
30 sorry. I should have remembered. That really isn't why
31 I came, anyway.
- 32 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Why did you come?
- 33 ANGEL: (*Big smile — puts arm around CHILDREN'S*
34 *MINISTER'S shoulder.*) Have you missed me?
- 35 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Missing doesn't quite describe

1 how I've felt. Let's just say we all noticed the silence.

2 ANGEL: That makes me feel good.

3 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: And sometimes silence is golden.

4 Why are you here?

5 ANGEL: Vacation.

6 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: You're on vacation? And you
7 came to see us?

8 ANGEL: No, I'm getting ready for vacation and I'm
9 leaving real soon. Actually they call it summer duty.

10 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Summer duty? From the looks
11 of your outfit, you're going to have fun, not go on
12 duty!

13 ANGEL: Well, that's the point. As you know, I've been
14 assigned you people as my angel beat and I'm supposed
15 to be watching out for you folks wherever you are.
16 So, come Memorial Day weekend, it's off to the golf
17 courses, down to the lakes, an occasional flight to the
18 ocean, a little fishing here and there. It's gonna be great.

19 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: But what's the point?

20 ANGEL: Well, as you know, God really wants you to stay
21 close to him — mainly for your sake. That's the way
22 you're made. You need God in your lives every single
23 day. Church helps remind people of that. Church also
24 gives you contact with other people who help remind each
25 other that they do better with God. But summer's
26 rough. It's easy to get playing and get out of the habit
27 of special time with God. God's had lots of experience
28 with being forgotten. That's why God sent me to remind
29 you not to forget about him this summer. God needs
30 you — but most importantly, you need God!

31 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: But why come on Mother's Day?

32 ANGEL: Well, moms understand about loving children and
33 missing children when they don't see or hear from their
34 kids. So Mother's Day is a good time to remind everyone
35 that God loves all of his children, and that God's

1 presence in their lives helps a lot — even in the summer!
2 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** I think I get it. We can take a
3 vacation — but we're not to take a vacation from God,
4 right?
5 **ANGEL:** You've got it! Just remember — God's a fisher of
6 all people (*Fishing line*); God wants you to stay in
7 God's game (*Golf club*); God wants you to wade in
8 his water. (*Shakes flipper.*) . . .
9 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** (*Interrupting*) I think we get the
10 point.
11 **ANGEL:** (*Looking at kids*) Do you get the point? Great.
12 Gotta go. Happy Mother's Day.
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WEIRD ANGEL #5
The Awesomely Apathetic Angel

- CAST:** Weird Angel (Dressed in black leather jacket, halo, sunglasses, T-shirt — isn't visible, but is worn under jacket. Carries radio.)
 Children's Minister
 Children
 Organist or Pianist
- CONTEXT:** As with the previous scripts, this script assumes that the weird angel has appeared before and that many people remember him. This particular script may work best if the angel has appeared before, since this is his one appearance without a robe. Children will recognize a person robed in white with a halo as an angel if it's a first visit.
- PROPS:** Black leather jacket with three large A's on the back (can be made out of construction paper and taped on), radio (large with two speakers), "I Don't Care" T-shirt, sunglasses.

1 **AT RISE:** The children are invited to come forward for a
 2 time of sharing. The Children's Minister, after greeting
 3 them, starts reading a story to the children and is
 4 interrupted.

5
 6 **ANGEL:** Excuse me. (*Loudly*) Excuse me. Can I get through
 7 here? (*Climbs over people in pew.*)

8 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** I don't believe it. It's that weird
 9 angel again.

10 **ANGEL:** Hey, get off my back. So I'm a little late. Where
 11 are we, anyway? (*Lifts sunglasses to look at neighbor's*
 12 *bulletin.*) Can I share? Oh — we're at the Children's
 13 Time — good. (*Sits down. Turns on radio loudly.*)

14 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Excuse *me* — but we can't have
 15 that radio playing now. This is a worship service.

16 **ANGEL:** Gripe, gripe, gripe. OK, OK. Get off my face.
 17 I'll turn it off.

18 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Thank you. Now where were we?
 19 (*ANGEL yawns loudly.*) Like I said — where were we?
 20 . . . Oh, yes. (*Continues reading. ANGEL snores loudly.*
 21 *Obnoxious is best!*) I don't believe this. He's being such
 22 a brat today. Would someone go with me to wake the
 23 angel up? (*CHILDREN'S MINISTER and CHILD go*
 24 *over and shake ANGEL'S shoulder.*) You fell asleep and
 25 were making a lot of noise.

26 **ANGEL:** What's it to ya? I mean sleeping in church is
 27 acceptable social behavior. I mean, like I watch this
 28 congregation all the time, and let's face it, people can
 29 catch a snooze now and then. Wake up, sister! (*Wink,*
 30 *wink*)

31 **CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Well, that may be true. I'm not
 32 sure it's real acceptable, but that's not the point. I think
 33 you need to come be with the other children. (*Moves to*
 34 *be with CHILDREN. Affectionately.*) I'm kind of worried
 35 about you. You know I always act irritated when you

1 come, and you're kind of a pain sometimes, but I have
2 to admit, I always thought of you as being kind of
3 sweet and harmless. And today — well, you're a different
4 angel. Has something happened?

5 ANGEL: (*Big smile*) Why, yes, now that you mention it. I've
6 joined the Triple A.

7 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Triple A — what's the Triple A?

8 ANGEL: We're the Awesomely Apathetic Angels. (*Shows off*
9 *back of jacket.*) For those of you nonmembers, *apathy*
10 means "I don't care!"

11 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Aren't you a little old to be
12 dressing and acting like this?

13 ANGEL: Old? That's the beautiful thing about apathy.

14 Apathy's for everyone! We have kind of an angel gang
15 that just formed. Wanna hear our Triple A cheer?

16 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Sure, why not?

17

18 ANGEL: (*Says in rhythm, kind of like a McDonald's*
19 *commercial. Snaps fingers.*)

20

21 Cuz when you're picking your spot
22 And you know that you're hot,
23 But basically you just want to play,
24 And you know there's a God
25 And that God's not a clod,
26 And God says that "Hey, you're OK,"
27 Well, soon I could see
28 That the Big Guy loves me,
29 And that God's love is powerful stuff.
30 No matter what I do,
31 God's love is true,
32 And God never gets in a huff.
33 So with that kind of grace,
34 There ain't no trace
35 of fearing the consequence of sin.

1 And grace abounds —
 2 I mean it astounds —
 3 And I do what I want,
 4 Cuz I know that I'll win.
 5 *(Free form — gospel style.)*
 6 Uh, huh . . . that's grace.
 7 It's awesome.
 8 That's grace.
 9 It's spelled G-R-A-C-E.
 10 Uh, huh . . . that's grace,
 11 Not Mary,
 12 Not Sarah,
 13 Not Penelope —
 14 It's grace!
 15

16 *(CHILDREN'S MINISTER breaks ANGEL off.)*
 17

18 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: I think we get the point.
 19 ANGEL: I knew you would.
 20 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: But I'm a little concerned here.
 21 I mean, it's true, God does love us. And nothing we
 22 can do can separate us from God or God's love —
 23 nothing.
 24 ANGEL: You preach it, sister — I mean that's what we're
 25 about. . . .The Awesomely Apathetic Angels can
 26 get by with anything.
 27 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Wait — I haven't finished. I mean
 28 I know that God loved us so much that God sent
 29 Jesus to show us how big his love was. And that Jesus
 30 endured a tremendous amount of pain because of that
 31 love. It wasn't just a surface kind of love. And the kind
 32 of love you're talking about is.
 33 ANGEL: Bummer, bummer. Get off my case. Nobody here
 34 wants to talk about grace. I'm blowing this joint.
 35 CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Wait — I think grace is terrific.



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