TOYBOX’S
Angels’ Delight
Congregation Session
Whip up a wave of enthusiasm
TOYBOX’S
Angels’ Delight
Congregation Session

How To Use: Browse our session plan for fun activities that will allow you to ‘count your blessings’ and introduce the idea of Angels’ Delight Parties.

Suitable For: Children and young people groups, families and churches.

Running Time: Adapt to the length of your session.
Help change the world for street children by being one of the first **100 churches**, or **150 young people** groups, or **300 individuals** to hold an Angels’ Delight party.

You contributions will help us to provide much needed assistance to children in situations that no child should ever have to face.
Blizzard Of Blessings
Starter Game

Before your session ask a helper to use a helium canister to inflate enough balloons for every person in your group, with around twenty extras. If you have a very large group, inflate one balloon per pair or family. Reserve the majority of balloons for your group.

Before inflating balloons push inside an invite (from page 16 or 17), some sweets and some confetti. If possible place balloons out of sight, tying them down first.

Inflate the final twenty balloons, filling first with confetti and sweets but no invite. Tie string and balloon weights to the final twenty balloons, varying the length of each string so that they stand at different heights.

Set these twenty balloons out to form a kind of inflatable slalom course. Each balloon should be a reasonable distance from the others. Avoid setting them out in straight lines as the challenge will be too easy.

Welcome your group. Ask for two volunteers and blindfold one. This person is the ‘seeker.’ The other volunteer is their guide. Challenge the ‘seeker’ to make their way along the route, following the verbal instructions of their guide, and popping the balloons as they go. Disorientate the ‘seeker’ by spinning them around before they start...

You will need:
- Copies of Angel Delight Party invites, from page 16-17 of this pack.
- Helium canister, balloon weights and strings, clear balloons
- Gift-tags, pens, confetti, sweets, blindfold, knitting needle, drawing-pins
Autumn is a time of year when it is traditional for Christians to celebrate God's good and perfect gifts; the bounty of the natural world and his provision in our daily lives.

To make sense of the game, let's think about the times when we forget to thank God for all the amazing things he has done. Instead we stumble around in the dark, feeling trapped by our concerns and blind to the blessings all around us. We need Jesus to guide us towards what God has for us, and we need fellowship with others; trusted friends who can help us to claim God's promises for our future.

In the game, the treats inside the balloons represent the good and perfect gifts that James is talking about. If the 'seeker' had felt overwhelmed by their situation, if they had not had the courage to follow the guiding voice, if they had been afraid to create a big bang, or worried about making a little mess, the balloons would have eventually just shrivelled up. They would have become smaller and smaller, with all the good stuff trapped inside... But when the player reached out and burst the balloons, the blessings poured out, ready to be shared...

Talking Point One:
Count Your Blessings

Read out the bible verse and make sense of the game using the notes below

Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change.

James 1: 17 (ESV)
I’d never have noticed him, if he hadn’t sat down. He didn’t look anything special. He wasn’t all... you know... like angels are meant to be... all golden and shiny.

When you’re a kid on the streets, and you mean nothing to nobody, and you have nothing, except a bit of cold pavement in some far-off country... When your life is just this huge, hungry emptiness, you spend a lot of time dreaming... I dreamed about God. The Father of Light they call him. Cos*... listen...you take any scrap of hope, any pin-prick of light, when there is none and you’re alone in the darkness.

I used to dream about God sending angels with good things; blessings. I’m not saying those angels were real but they were right next me... They were nothing like this guy, when he turned up.

But he was the genuine article though. He walked over one day, looking like he could do with a good night’s sleep, and a meal that didn’t come out of a takeaway box. He just sat down next to me and I knew straightaway he was an angel because he said something no one else had said:

“Ok kid? What’s your name? Oh, it’s Rafael. Hi Rafael, I’m Alessandro by the way. I work with a charity called Toybox. Has anyone talked to you about us? Toybox is here ‘specially to help street children. So, I’m wondering... Maybe, you’d like me to help you too?”

* Spelling and grammar idiosyncrasies are a characteristic of the story and not a mistake in the text.
Creative Prayer

Give out the pens and luggage labels you prepared before the session. Ask everyone to write their name and two recent blessings on one side of the label. Then write two prayer needs on the other side of the label.

Hand out the balloons you prepared before the session. Encourage your group to attach their labels to the balloon strings. If you are sharing balloons you can attach more than one label to each balloon string.

Now ask people to ‘share their blessings’ by swapping balloons. Children should swap with children of a similar age, ladies with ladies, and men with men.

Give the group time to silently pray for the person they have just swapped with, using the luggage label to guide their prayers. Now swap the balloons again and ask people to secure their balloons so that they don’t float away. If you have pews instead of chairs and can’t tie balloons, cheap plastic balloon weights can be bought online. Balloons will be needed again later.

Ask your group to make a note of the person named on the balloon tied to their chair. Encourage them to spend time, in the following week, praying for this person.
An Angel At My Table

You Will Need:
- One helper to play each role
- A deckchair and a sun-lounger
- (Optional) Parasol and base
- A windbreak to divide the chairs
- A small table beside each chair
- A metal tray
- 'Cocktails' with umbrellas and cherries
- Lots of gift-wrapped cardboard boxes

For 'Little Miss Smug':
- Kaftan, flip-flops, sun-hat, sun-glasses, sun-cream, mobile phone, towel, magazine

For 'The-End-Of-The-World-Is-Nigh Guy':
- Knotted hanky on head, shorts and string vest, sandals and long-socks, novelty sun-glasses

For the Wonderful Waiter:
- White shirt, black tie, black skirt or trousers, very small angel wings (children’s size)

Notes:
Set the chairs up on stage with the windbreak between them. The idea is that the audience can see both chairs but the actors can’t see each other. It is also important that the audience sees the waiter’s wings but The-End-Of-The-World-Is-Nigh-Guy and Little Miss Smug do not.

Any grammar and spelling idiosyncrasies are the characters’ own and not an error in the script!
Little Miss Smug enters, lays the towel on the sun-lounger, settles herself and starts applying sun-cream. She stops almost immediately, picks up her mobile phone and begins posing. Talking with a faux-posh accent she says:


Wonderful Waiter enters with a tray. Placed on the tray is a cocktail and a gift wrapped box. He positions himself throughout the sketch so that the audience can see his wings but neither of the other actors can.

WONDERFUL WAITER: Morning Miss. And what a lovely morning it is too. A very good choice if I may say so. A bit of winter sun instead of all that drizzle in the UK. Here you are Miss, courtesy of the management.

(Points heavenwards).

Waiter turns to audience, indicates his wings cheerily, and does a giant stage wink.

LITTLE MISS SMUG: Huh... Look... just put that there would you.

Wonderful Waiter exits. Mobile phone rings.

LITTLE MISS SMUG: Bunny! Mwah! Oh my days, daahling, I’m already uber-tanned! I know babe, I know...amahzingly blessed.

I know. Yuh. Soooo sad you couldn’t come. Yuh. Honestly. Poor you... I’m so blessed though, aren’t I. I am though. I am aren’t I. Yuh, yuh... and so worth it yuh?

Ok ciao Bunny. Yuh, posting selfies now. Ok. Kiss kiss!

Wonderful Waiter returns, bringing several very large wrapped cardboard boxes. The mobile phone rings again.

WONDERFUL WAITER: If I might just have a moment Miss?

LITTLE MISS SMUG: [Ignoring the waiter.] Shriek! Spenny! So good to... Oh my days. That’s ghastly babe! Guess some people are blessed, darling. Like me. And some people aren’t...

Oh. Hold on a sec babe. Someone’s trying to say something.

Wonderful Waiter stacks boxes around her so that she is beginning to be boxed in.

WONDERFUL WAITER: Just another little something from the management Miss, with a message from the manager. [Coughs and clears throat.] ‘Every good and every perfect thing is from above, coming from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change.’
...Well that’s all for now then...

Little Miss Smug waves the waiter away with her hand and continues her telephone conversation. Waiter shrugs to the audience and exits.

LITTLE MISS SMUG: Babe!!!! Stop it though. [Giggling and tossing hair flirtily.] No you stop it. [Giggling again.] No seriously though... You! No you!

Seriously though, you totes have to see this place. It’s amaaaaahzing. They are literally showering me with gifts.

I don’t know babe, I haven’t opened them yet. But I’m worth it right?

Yuh, yuh, I know darling. Of course I would love you to be here, but maybe... [Waits to hear person talking on phone.]

Put it like that darling, and, I don’t want to rub it in, but yuh... I know, I’m blessed, so so blessed.

Toodles. Kiss! Kiss, kiss, kiss.

[ Begins reading magazine.]

WAITER: Just a few more Miss. The manager does so love to make sure that guests are well provided for.

Although, if I may say so, you seem to have more than you can manage here. Would you like me to give a few to someone else?

No? As you wish Miss.

I’m just to let you know that the message is the same as before: ‘Every good and every perfect thing is from above, coming from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change.’

Little Miss Smug waves a hand over the top of the boxes to dismiss the waiter. Her phone starts ringing again.
Drama Part Two

The End-Of-The-World-Is-Nigh-Guy, enters dejectedly, looks dejectedly at Little Miss Smug’s pile of gifts, sighs, slumps his shoulders dejectedly, and ambles dejectedly over to his deckchair, muttering to himself:


Waiter enters, waiting patiently at the side with tray, wrapped cardboard box and cocktail, and listening carefully.

Here I am. Not a friend in the bloomin world. Just poor old me. Disaster, disaster, disaster. Nobody cares. Nobody’s thinking of me. I might as well just sit here and be bloomin miserable.

WONDERFUL WAITER: Excuse me for interrupting Sir but the management couldn’t help noticing that you are holidaying alone. The manager would be delighted to invite you to dine with him during your stay. On the house of course...

THE END-OF-THE-WORLD-IS-NIGH GUY: What’s the point! There’s nothing to talk about... We’ll just sit there. Stuck for conversation. Like a pair of bloomin idiots.

Plus I’ll get bloomin food-poisoning, from all that bloomin foreign food. I’ll be stretchered off to some bloomin foreign ‘ospital.

Typical. I’ll have kicked the bloomin bucket before you know it.

WONDERFUL WAITER: I think you’ll find Sir that the health and welfare needs of our guests is of paramount importance to us. But if you would be happier on your own Sir... I’ll just put these here shall I? [Put drink and gift on table and exit.]

THE END-OF-THE-WORLD-IS-NIGH GUY: [Muttering to himself again.] I don’t bloomin care where ‘e puts ‘is bloomin fancy drink...Need more than that to get me through this disaster.

Oh no. The plane! The plane’ll probably go and bloomin crash on the bloomin way ‘ome. The worry’s killing me...
Waiter enters carrying as many wrapped boxes as he can carry and arranges them around the sun-lounger.

WONDERFUL WAITER: Just a few gifts from the management Sir, to let you know that you are an exceptionally important guest. The manager said to tell you:

‘Every good and every perfect thing is from above, coming from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change.’ [Bows and exits.]

THE END-OF-THE-WORLD-IS-NIGH GUY: That’s the last straw. What am I supposed to do with those things. [Points to boxes in disgust.]

Could be a bloomin trick. Could be a bloomin booby-trap. Could open a bloomin box, and get bit by a bloomin snake, and die an ‘orrible painful death. Just my bloomin luck.

Oh well. Better get these things out the way then. [Handling them like ticking bombs, he moves boxes as far away as possible.]

Suppose they’re bloomin ’eavy ’an all. That’ll send my bloomin blood-pressure sky-high. Bloomin ’eck...Then... that’ll be curtains for me. I’m as good as dead. I’m a dead man walking. Disaster, disaster, disaster. [Freeze onstage looking glum. All three actors take a bow.]
Talking Point Two: Share The Blessings
Read to your group or put in your own words

Have you ever noticed how humans have this daft tendency to launch themselves from one extreme of behaviour to another? Think about the characters in the drama. Neither of them took a moment to say thank you for what they were given.

At one end of the spectrum, ‘The-End-Of-The-World-Is-Night-Guy’ let his blessings be drowned out by the noise of his own pessimism and fear. At the other end, ‘Little-Miss-Smug’ thought that she was more blessed than others because she deserved to be. She quickly became so self-satisfied that she was trapped in her own little world. Her blessings were of no use to her, or anybody else.

As we think about God’s good and perfect gifts, let’s not make our blessings about us, instead of about the Father of Light. Let’s remember that blessed as we are, we have neither earned nor deserved God’s goodness and we shouldn’t let it go to waste.

Instead let’s be like the seeker in the game and pop the balloons to shower the blessings around us. Let’s be like Alessandro, the Toybox worker in the story. He was an unlikely angel when that young man, Rafael, desperately needed someone to care about him.

Suggested Hymns:
All Creatures Of Our God and King
Blessed Be Your Name
(Great Is Thy Faithfulness
God Of Wonders
(Amanda Bromley)
The Arms Of The Angels

Ask a confident teenage girl to read out Elena’s story, below, to your group

Is that what he said? Rafael? Is that what he told you? That he saw angels? Well... You see a whole load of freaky* stuff when you live your whole life on the street like we do.

Only, mostly it’s not good stuff like angels. It’s not stuff people want to open their eyes to. It’s beatings and shootings. It’s filth and drugs. Needles everywhere. Kids, off their heads on glue, trying to escape this place.

Last week I saw some kid like that. I dunno whether somewhere in his mind he... Maybe he just thought he could fly? I dunno... but somehow he got... he got right on top of that building. You see that really tall one there? Well he got up on that roof and he kept walking until, you know... he walked right off it.

I saw that kid do that to himself because nobody else cared for long enough to notice him. Not one person in the world is bothered that he’s gone.

Ok. Yeah. When I think about him... Maybe I see angels too. Not the kind of magicky sort that Rafael was talking about. But people. People that could be angels for kids like us. People that could change stuff if they noticed. But they don’t. They just don’t.

* Spelling and grammar idiosyncrasies are a characteristic of the story and not a mistake in the text.

The UN estimates that there are more than 100 million street children globally. Toybox works through local partners to help street children who face a bleak struggle for survival, and who are vulnerable to gangs, violence, drugs and exploitation.
You may wonder what that story we have just heard has to do with our theme of God’s blessings. Elena, the girl telling us her story certainly didn’t seem to have a lot to be thankful about. Well, let me explain by taking you back to the bible verse from James that we heard earlier.

When James tells us that, ‘Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming from the Father of Lights,’ he is answering an unspoken question; one of the most important we could ever ask ourselves: ‘Who is God?’ James answers by telling us about God’s nature; identifying God as the source of all goodness, and reassuring us that this generous nature has no shadows and will never change.

But lovely as this is, in verse 18, James follows this statement with a challenge. This is where I want you to think back to Elena, the girl in that last story. In verse 18, James is no longer explaining who God is, he is asking us who we are and how we will respond to being chosen as God’s children.

In verses 19-26 James goes on, asking those who belong to God to live the life of true believers. He tells us that being a true believer means more than receiving the good and perfect things that flow through divine grace. He explains that we need to connect ourselves to this flow of blessing, so that the blessings can flow through us and out to others.

Micro Message
Read to your group or put in your own words.

In his goodness he chose to make us his children by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his choice possession.

James 1:18 (NLT)

Continued over...
In verses 19-26, James becomes very specific about how ‘true believers’ should live. He urges us to be slow to anger and quick to love. He encourages us to demonstrate faith in Christ in practical ways; by taking action on behalf of people like Elena; the orphans, the widows, the least fortunate in society.

James’ words show us that faith in action is an essential response to God’s goodness towards those he has chosen. Faith in action is not about mysticism and religious observance, or pilgrimages and penance. It is simple and straightforward, concerned with life now, with living it purely, and with passing on God’s goodness to those in desperate need.

Outreach to the poor and neglected becomes an expression of faith, the sign of a true believer, and a thankful response to God’s steadfast love, in which there is no variation or shadow of change.

Micro Message Continued
Read to your group or put in your own words

Father of Lights; giver of good gifts; source of purity without stain or blemish, accept our gratitude in response to your grace, our faith in response to your faithfulness, and help us to share your unfailing love with those who need us. Amen
Ask helpers to give out drawing pins. Encourage your whole group to burst the balloons tied to their chair at exactly the same time to create a giant, noisy party-popper. Give people time to pick up the invite that will have fallen out when their balloon burst. Promote Toybox’s Angels’ Delight parties. This is your opportunity to either advertise your own event, or to encourage others to organise a party of their own. Free resources and activities are available at www.toybox.org.uk/angelsdelight

How Angels’ Delight Parties Will Help Street Children

Many street children around the world find that their incredibly hard life is made more difficult because they were not registered at birth. Unregistered children are invisible to the state because they do not officially exist. This makes it impossible for them to receive schooling, healthcare or any form of government support and protection.

For the same reason, crimes against street children, including abuse and murder go unrecorded and unpunished. Many street children die whilst they are young and are buried in graves marked simply XXX. These children suffer the same indignity in death as in life...

Your Angels’ Delight Party could help pay for the identity cards and legal costs associated with providing birth certificates for street children. A simple piece of paper can dramatically improve a child’s chance of surviving and thriving.
Party Invites
Option 1 – Invite To Organise A Party

You are cordially invited to hold an **Angels’ Delight Party**
at a date, time and venue of your own choosing.

For help, party ideas, activities, and resources,
please go to [www.toybox.org.uk/angelsdelight](http://www.toybox.org.uk/angelsdelight)

All funds raised will be used to support Toybox’s work with street children. To find out
more about Toybox, and the children they are helping, please go to [www.toybox.org.uk](http://www.toybox.org.uk)
We are delighted to invite you to our

Angels’ Delight Autumn Party

On: ...........................................

At: ...........................................

All funds raised will be used to support Toybox’s work with street children. To find out more about Toybox, and the children they are helping, please go to www.toybox.org.uk
Cash-A-Doodle Do

Thanks a million for giving your precious time, energy, and goodwill to make life brighter and better for street children. To help you keep a beady eye on every penny you raise, we recommend using the sponsorship form we’ve included in this pack.

Alternatively, why not set up a personalised Virgin Money Giving page?

Just go to www.virginmoneygiving.com and follow the instructions.

Don’t forget that the cuddly old tax-man will help make your fundraising go further and, if you Gift Aid your donation, we can claim 25p in every pound.

We are confident that you will soon be delirious with the sweet taste of fundraising success. So, once your swagbag is laden with gold doubloons, please send monies raised to Toybox.

You can send in the money you have raised in three ways:

**Post** – put your cheque(s) payable to ‘The Toybox Charity’ in the post to:

The Toybox Charity, G4 Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6DP

**Call** – Call our friendly Supporter Relations team on 01908 360080 and make a donation over the phone.

**Online** – You can make a donation online at www.toybox.org.uk/donate.

Remember to select the fundraising option to let us know what you’ve been up to!

Thank you
**SPONSORSHIP FORM**

You can photocopy this form if you need more space

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### Make your gift work harder

Do you pay tax? If so, by simply completing this form you can boost the value of your gift by 25p for every £1 without costing you a penny.

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like The Toybox Charity to treat all donations I have made for the four years prior to this year and all donations I make in the future as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

### > Fill out your full name

> Fill out your home address including your Postcode

otherwise Toybox cannot claim Gift Aid on your donation

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Tick if you don’t want to hear more about Toybox

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Toybox would like to hold your details in order to update you about our work.
If you would prefer us not to use your details in this way please tick the box in the right hand column.

**www.toybox.org.uk**

Toybox, G4 Challenge House, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6DP, United Kingdom.
The Toybox charity is registered in England and Wales as a charity number 1084243.
Company limited by guarantee number 03963000.
PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

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