**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 1:26-38

**SERIES:** The Apostles’ Creed

**TITLE:** Conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary

**BIG IDEA:** These verses help us to look at the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**SUMMARY:**

Luke 1:26-38 records the angel Gabriel brings a message to Mary saying she will have a son through the power of the Holy Spirit. The child, Jesus, will be God’s Son. Jesus will reign forever. With humility Mary accepts the plan God had for her. Mary trusts God and understands that nothing is impossible with God.

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**TEXT:**

**26**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27**to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. **28**And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” **29**But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30**And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31**And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33**and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**34**And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

**35**And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36**And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37**For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38**And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**INTODUCTORY QUESTIONS:**

* What stood out to you from the passage?
* How does this passage relate to your life circumstances?
* What can we learn from this text and how can we apply it?

1. **The Miracle of the Incarnation. Vv. 26-33**

The miraculous conception of Jesus shows that the salvation of mankind is the work of God, and not ours. Since He is fully God, only He has the power to save; since HE is fully man, only He can represent us. This means that we can trust Him completely as Savior. When life fells impossible, we remember that the God who worked this miracle is still at work in us today.

* Why is it important that Jesus was both fully God and fully man?
* How does knowing Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (without sin) give you confidence in Him as your Savior?
* Where in your life do you need to trust that “nothing is impossible with God”?

Application Question:

Do I fully trust Jesus as both God and man- the only one who can save me and is able to understand me?

1. **The Humility of the Virgin. Vv.34-38**

God uses ordinary people. We see that through Mary’s faith and obedience. Did she have all the answers? No! but she surrendered and trusted God’s plan. Like Mary, we are called to be obedient and trust God, even when things are uncertain. When we say “yes” to God the door opens for Him to do a work through us.

* What does Mary’s response (“I am the Lord’s servant”) teach us about obedience?
* Why do you think God chose an ordinary, young woman instead of someone famous or powerful?
* What would it look like for you to say “yes” to God in a difficult or confusing situation?

Application Question:

Am I willing to surrender my plans and say “yes” to God even when I don’t have all the answers?

1. **The Hope of the World. Vv. 31-33**

Gabriel’s announcement is one of great significance. It shows that Jesus is not only a baby in a manger. Jesus is the eternal King. His kingdom will never end. We don’t have hope in material things, leaders, or our successes. We have hope in Christ and Christ alone. Since His reign is eternal, we face a future without fear. When we live as His followers, we represent His kingdom in the present and in the future.

* How is Jesus’ kingdom different from earthly kingdoms or leaders?
* What gives you hope when you remember that Jesus’ reign will never end?
* How can you live more like a citizen of Christ’s kingdom in your school, family, or friend group?

Application Question:

Am I living each day with my hope rooted in Christ’s eternal kingdom rather than in temporary things?

**CLOSING QUESTIONS:**

* How does this passage point us to Christ?
* What does this passage teach us about the Gospel?
* What does this passage ask us to do?
* What do we need to pray for specifically in asking the Holy Spirit to apply these truths to our hearts and lives?
* How can we pray for each other?

**NOTES:**