

Mary, Mother of Jesus



Wyldwood Baptist Church

Ladies' Bible Study for December 2021

LUKE 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you."

29 But she was very perplexed at *this* statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

30 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 name Him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason, the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

36 And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

LUKE 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Why the Angel Gabriel?

Luke begins with Gabriel, a messenger angel sent from God. Nowhere does the Bible describe the appearance of angels. They came in dreams and in real time. They can look ordinary or awesome and fearful. The usual reaction to seeing angels was fear. Angels are God's servants, busy carrying out the urgent work of God: delivering messages, ministering to Jesus. Angels are still at work today!

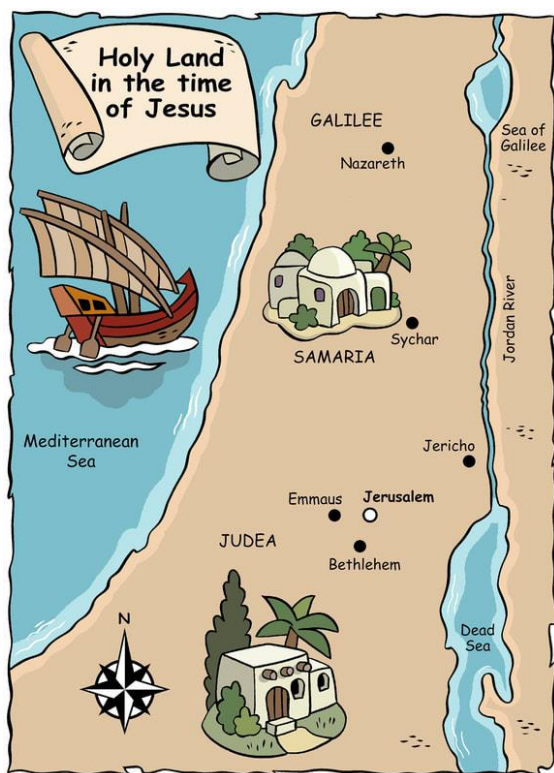
- ♥ *How did Mary react to Gabriel's appearance?*
- ♥ *Why do people react in fear to angels?*
- ♥ *Notice that Gabriel is very specific in the message given to Mary and later in the instructions given to Joseph through dreams!*
- ♥ *How do you think you would have reacted?*



Why Nazareth?

The story of Jesus begins in a difficult place. Nazareth was a dusty, unimportant village in a powerless country under the oppressive rule of the superpower Rome. Located in Galilee, Nazareth was the home village of Mary and where Jesus spent His childhood years. The name Nazareth may come from the Hebrew word '*netzer*', which means “**branch**” or “**shoot**.”

♥ *Why do you think God began His story in Nazareth and why 2,000 years ago?*



Why a Virgin named Mary?

When we study Mary, we have way more questions than answers! Scripture is silent about Mary's family (except for Elizabeth). The Bible tells us that Mary lived in Nazareth and was espoused to Joseph, so scholars assume she was a typical teen living a quiet life in her small town. We don't know of her dreams or ambitions. We really know very little about the man she was pledged to marry; only that he was of the lineage of David and was a 'tekton' or mason (in stone or wood). Because of the known customs of the time, we presume Mary was in her early teens, having had her first menstrual courses.

- ♥ *Why did Gabriel call Mary 'favored one'?*
- ♥ *What was Mary's reaction to seeing an angel?*
- ♥ *What did she ask Gabriel?*
- ♥ *Was this a foolish question?*
- ♥ *Would Mary have understood that she would give birth to the Messiah?*
- ♥ *Where in the Bible does it give this prophecy?*
- ♥ *How would the news of Elizabeth reassure her?*
- ♥ *What does Mary's response tell us about her?*
- ♥ *What reaction could Mary expect from others?*

Why name the baby Jesus?

According to Cruden's Concordance, there are 198 different titles and designations given in Scripture to the holy infant, but the most used and recognized is Jesus. At the time of His birth, this name was very popular for boys. Jesus is the Hebrew equivalent for the Greek name Joshua and means 'God saves'. The name Jesus, or Joshua, had national significance as the successor to Moses that led the Hebrew people finally into the Promised Land. The name remained popular until the century after Jesus' death and resurrection. WHY? For Christians, it was sacred. For Hebrews, it was a name they did not embrace.

- ♥ *Who chose the name 'Jesus'?*
- ♥ *Why did God choose this particular name?*
- ♥ *This name has past and present significance, but what is its significance for the future?*

