



Trust the Lord

and believe
He has a good
plan for you.

THE GOSPEL
of LUKE

CURRENT THEME:

Characters at the Cradle

MEMORY VERSE

“For no word of God will ever fail.”- **Luke 1:37**

NOVEMBER 23 | LIFE APPLICATION

**Trust the Lord and believe
He has a good plan for you.**

Today's Scripture: [Luke 1:26-38](#); [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

Characters at the Cradle: Gabriel's Next Assignment (Mary and Joseph)



Here is the timeline we have covered (so far) in the Christmas story, leading up to the birth of Jesus:

1. 300 prophecies in the Old Testament of the coming of the Messiah
2. The last one is [Malachi 4:5](#)
3. 400 years of silence (the Intertestamental time)
4. From [Malachi](#) to [Matthew](#), [Mark](#), [Luke](#), and [John](#)
5. In eternity past, God the Father said to God the Son: **“Will you go?”**
6. It was a **rescue mission** to save us from eternal separation from God
7. The Son said, **“I will go.”**
8. The 400 years of silence is broken: **God sends Gabriel to Zechariah**
9. A son named John is promised to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
10. Now, the next part of the Christmas story begins! **Let's look at [Luke 1:26-38](#).**

Discuss Luke 1: 26-27

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.

1. In last week's study of [Luke 1:1-25](#), the angel Gabriel was sent by God with good news for Zechariah and his wife. **What was the good news?** *(They would have a son!)* **Why was this good news?** *(Because they were older and had prayed for a child for many years.)* Their son John would become John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus who would walk before Him and prepare the way for Him. Zechariah was given instruction on how he should be raised.
2. Elizabeth did become pregnant, and kept quiet about it for 5 months. Then,

when she was 6 months pregnant, God sent Gabriel to someone else with good news! **Who was it? (Mary.) Do you know anything about Mary?** *(Pause for discussion.)* Here are some things that we should know about her life before Gabriel visited her:

- Mary was Elizabeth's cousin.
- She was probably only 13 or 14 years old, and her family was most likely poor and lived in a humble home. Mary was also a virgin. (Parents, depending on your child's age and ability to understand, please explain.)
- They lived in Nazareth, a very small town on the road to Samaria. So small, in fact, that there was only one small well in the center of town.
- Mary was betrothed (engaged) to a man named Joseph. In those times people married at a younger age. What was special about Joseph? (He was of the house of David. This was prophesied in multiple places in the Old Testament- that the Messiah would come from the lineage of David.)

3. **Knowing these things about Mary, does this seem like the person God would choose to be the mother of Jesus, the Son He would send to save the world? Why or why not?**

Discuss Luke 1:28-29

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.*

1. **What did Gabriel say to Mary that caused her to be troubled?** *(He said that she was favored and the Lord was with her.)* **How do you think Mary felt when she heard this?** *(She was "greatly troubled," and she was trying to figure out what this meant!)* **Why do you think Gabriel said this to her?** *(Discuss. To comfort her, to give her strength, etc.)*
2. Look back at the beginning of **verse 28**. **What did Gabriel tell her that should have comforted her?** *("The Lord is with you.")* Whenever we are troubled or afraid, as Mary must have been, we can remember that the Lord is with us. In **Matthew 28:20** Jesus Himself makes this promise to us: *"...And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
3. **Do you believe that the Lord is with those of us who trust and believe in Him? How does that make you feel?** *(Brave, strong, thankful, etc.)*

Discuss Luke 1:30-33

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.”

1. In **verse 30**, Gabriel told Mary, “Do not be afraid.” **Why did she not need to be afraid?** *(Because she had found favor with God and He would be with her.)*
2. Next, Gabriel told Mary why the Lord had shown favor and what he had planned for her. **What did he say in verse 31?** *(She would conceive and bear a son, and He would be named Jesus.)* **What would be special about her son?** *(Read **verse 32**. He would be great and called the Son of the most high, and He would inherit from God the throne of David.)*
3. **And in verse 33, what else would her son do?** *(He would reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom would never end.)*
4. **Can you imagine how Mary must have felt, to know that she would have a child and that He would be the Son of God?**

Discuss Luke 1:34-37

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.”

1. Mary asked Gabriel how this could be. She was young and unmarried, and a virgin. **How did Gabriel say that this would happen?** *(She would conceive through the Holy Spirit and the power of the Most High God, and her child would be called holy, the Son of God.)*
2. **What else did Gabriel tell her?** *(That Elizabeth, her cousin, was also pregnant. He may have told her this so that she would know she was not alone and also to build her faith, because she knew Elizabeth was past childbearing years.)*

Discuss Luke 1:38

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.

1. Remember, Zechariah had unbelief when Gabriel told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son. **How did Mary react to the news that she would bear the Son of God?**
2. **How was what Mary said different from the way Zechariah responded?** *(Discuss. Zechariah had unbelief, but Mary accepted what she was told and was willing to do what the Lord asked of her. She trusted Him.)*

Discuss Matthew 1:18-25

In **Matthew 1:18-25**, we find out about Gabriel's next assignment: Joseph.

Remember, Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Can you imagine her thoughts about having to tell Joseph that she was with child? And that her child would be the Son of God? But, God walked before her by sending Gabriel to speak to Joseph. **Read Matthew 18:18-25:**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

1. Read **verses 18-19**. **What did Joseph decide to do when he found out that Mary was with child?** (He was planning to divorce her quietly so that she would not be shamed.)
2. While he was thinking about these things, he had a dream, and an angel spoke to him. **Who do you think this was?** (Gabriel.) **What did Gabriel say to Joseph in verse 20?** (Do not fear.) **What did he say about Mary in verse 21?** (That Joseph should still marry her, because her child was conceived by the Holy Spirit.)
3. Gabriel also spoke the words of a prophet in **verses 22- 23** to assure Joseph that this was meant to happen and that it was from the Lord. *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"* (Which means "God with us.")
4. We know that Zechariah responded to Gabriel with unbelief for news of the great blessing of a child in his old age, and Mary responded with faith and trust in God when told she would be the mother of the Son of God. Read **verses 24-25**. **How did Joseph respond to what Gabriel told him?** (He did all that Gabriel told him to do. He married Mary, and waited to be with her until the birth of her son, the Son of God. He also named him Jesus as Gabriel instructed him to do.) **What words could you use to describe**

Joseph? *(Discuss. Some words might be: kind, brave, loyal, honorable, faithful, obedient, etc.*

A special word from our pastor, David Chadwick:

The Virgin Birth is an essential doctrine of the faith. And, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus and Joseph to be the earthly father of Jesus, out of all the people in the world. **How can we be chosen by God to do amazing things for Him?** Like Mary and Joseph: **Be faithful. Be obedient. Trust Him. Know that He is with you wherever you go.**

Women, emulate (be like) Mary. Men, emulate Joseph. Marriages, let troubles bring you closer together. Families need to love each other. And, pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. And **always believe that nothing, absolutely nothing, is impossible for God (Luke 1:37)**

Family Challenge

Say: "God can choose humble people to do the most amazing things! Think about people you have read about in the Bible, in history, and even in this world now that were chosen by God to do amazing things. *(Discuss. Parents, lead this with examples of people in the Bible and in history who have done amazing things for God.)* And remember, He also has a plan for each of us, even for you! It is important to seek His will and pray for Him to show you what He wants you to do in this world for Him!"

This Thanksgiving week, be thankful together. Each day, have family members write and share things they are thankful for. On Thursday, read these notes and then thank God for each of them again. **Thank Him because He is good, He is kind. He loves you. He wants to do good things for you.**

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, We are so thankful for Mary and Joseph. They were brave and they trusted You. Help us to trust You as well, every day. Help us to go into the world expecting to be used by You. We love You. In Your Name, Amen.*