

Stories of Christmas

Jesus' Annunciation

Luke 1:26-38

Opening

Gathering: What stories have you heard about God sending angels to His people today?

Today's Focus: God sent Gabriel to announce to an engaged girl that she was chosen by grace to be the mother of the Savior of the world.

Key Verses: *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.* Luke 1:35

Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Review of Last Week (Luke 1:1-25)

How does the historian Luke transition from the Old Testament into his story of Jesus?

Luke 1:5-7

What happened toward the ends of the lives of these faithful Jews?

Luke 1:8-9, 11, 13

Why would God send an angel to tell an elderly couple they would have a child?

Luke 1:14-17

How did the angel reply when Zechariah couldn't believe what he was seeing and hearing?

Luke 1:18-20

What other proof was this couple given that what the angel said was true?

Luke 1:24

An Arch-Angel's Travel Itinerary (Luke 1:26-27)

When do we next hear of this arch-angel Gabriel at work?

Luke 1:26

Galilee - Northern section of Palestine, Populated by mixture of Jews and Gentiles (Matthew 4:15)

Considered by Judean Jews as second-class citizens

Only occasionally able to attend services and ceremonies of the temple

Could become wealthy from plentiful land (grain, fruit) and sea (fish)

Galileans considered materialistic for giving up spiritual blessings for material gain

How did the chief priests and Pharisees feel about Jesus being a Galilean?

John 7:52

Nazareth - An insignificant town hidden in a basin in southern Galilee

Roman garrison nearby brought gentile influence and a bad reputation

How did other "second class" Galileans feel about Nazareth?

John 1:46

Who was Gabriel sent to visit in Nazareth?

Luke 1:27

Engagements were arranged by parents, often while still children

Couples were betrothed in a ceremony that legally bound them

After a betrothal period of up to a year, the man would take his wife home (marriage)

Girls were usually betrothed after puberty (able to have children)

Men were usually betrothed in mid-twenties (established in trade)

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Hail, Mary! (Luke 1:28)

How did Gabriel greet this teenager that told her she was chosen for a special job?

Luke 1:28

What did Gabriel mean by saying Mary was *highly favored*?

Luke 1:42-43

Full of Grace (Luke 1:28)

Roman Catholics translate verse 28 as "*Thou art full of grace*" and therefore pray to her

The text does not imply that she would be a *source* of grace, but rather a *recipient* of grace

Who does John say was full of grace?

John 1:14, 16-17

Does this mean that us normal humans cannot be filled with God's grace?

Acts 6:8

Why Me, Lord? (Luke 1:29-30)

How does Mary's response show that she was chosen by God's grace and not for her grace?

Luke 1:29

What does Mary say in her prayer that further shows she felt undeserving?

Luke 1:47-49

Is there any reason Mary was singled out over so many others?

Luke 1:30

The Annunciation (Luke 1:31-33)

What news does Gabriel announce (announce) to Mary?

Luke 1:31

Jesus - Greek form of the Hebrew *Joshua* - a common Jewish name in those days

What would be special about this child?

Luke 1:32a

What important truth about Jesus do these words to Mary confirm?

Isaiah 9:6

What else does Gabriel tell Mary about this child?

Luke 1:32b-33

How would a good Jewish girl like Mary understand this?

2 Samuel 7:16

Mary's Immediate Reply (Luke 1:34)

How had Zechariah responded to Gabriel's announcement that he would have a son?

Luke 1:18

Did Mary express similar doubt when she was told she would have a son?

Luke 1:34

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Here's How (*Luke 1:35*)

How would Mary become pregnant even though it would be months before Joseph took her in?

Luke 1:35a

The terms "*come upon*" and "*overshadow*" do not refer to sexual activity. Examples are:

Genesis 1:2

Exodus 40:35

Matthew 17:5

Here's Why (*Luke 1:35*)

What had Gabriel already said about Jesus that he wanted to be sure Mary understood?

Luke 1:35b

Why did Gabriel call Jesus the Holy One?

2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Peter 2:21-22

1 John 3:5

Here's Proof (*Luke 1:36-37*)

Although she didn't ask for it, what proof did Gabriel give Mary for this impossible birth?

Luke 1:36-37

What Old Testament story might this statement remind Mary of?

Genesis 18:14

Where do we hear other confirmation of this great power of God?

Job 42:1-2

Jeremiah 32:17

Matthew 19:23-26

Mary's Response (*Luke 1:38-40*)

How faithfully did Mary accept this promise?

Luke 1:38

What did Mary do after the angel left?

Luke 1:39-40

Why did Mary hurry to leave?

Genesis 22:2-3

Joseph's Decision (*Matthew 1:18-19*)

How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth?

Luke 1:56

What surprised Joseph when he welcomed his betrothed Mary back to Nazareth?

Matthew 1:18

If girl became pregnant during betrothal, the man had three options:

Accept the adultery and proceed with the marriage (compassionate, but unrighteous)

Publicly divorce the woman and have her stoned to death (Deuteronomy 22:13-27)

Quietly divorce the woman (Deuteronomy 24:1)

How did Joseph plan to handle Mary's situation?

Matthew 1:19

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Jesus Kept Legitimate (*Matthew 1:20*)

How did God change Joseph's mind?

Matthew 1:20

What did the angel tell Joseph that would be special about this child?

Matthew 1:21

Why had God put Joseph in such a predicament?

Matthew 1:22-23

What did Joseph finally decide to do?

Matthew 1:24

Why didn't Joseph consummate the marriage?

Matthew 1:25

Notes on Matthew and Luke

The four Gospels emphasize different aspects of Jesus:

Matthew - The King of the Jews

Mark - The Servant of God

Luke - The Son of Man

John - The Son of God

Luke recorded the birth events involving Jesus' human mother Mary

Luke 3:23-38 records Jesus' genealogy back to the first man, Adam, through Mary's line

Matthew emphasizes the royal rights of Jesus by presenting His birth through Joseph's view

Matthew 1:1-17 records Jesus' genealogy back to David and Abraham via Joseph's line

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I looked down on others as second class people?
(John 1:46; Job 34:16-19; Proverbs 28:21; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11; 12:3-8; James 2:1-9)
2. When have I felt that I have found favor with God?
(Luke 1:28-38; 2:13-14, 52; Genesis 4:3-5; 6:8; 19:16-21; Exodus 33:12-19; 1 Samuel 2:26; 2 Kings 13:4-5; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2)
3. When have I been surprised by God's goodness and grace to me?
(Luke 1:29; Genesis 12:1-3; Psalm 31:19; 34:8; Romans 5:6-8; 8:28; Ephesians 1:3; 1 Peter 2:2-3)
4. How has God shown me that nothing is impossible with Him?
(Luke 1:37; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 17:20; 19:23-26; John 15:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:16-18)
5. When have I taken the role of a servant for God?
(Luke 1:38; Matthew 20:25-28; 25:31-40; John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; Philippians 2:5-7; Colossians 1:24-26; Hebrews 13:1-3)

Next Week - *Mary & Elizabeth / John is Born* (Luke 1:39-80)