

Christmas

READ – Luke 1:26–38

The announcement to Mary parallels the announcement to Zechariah, but there are many significant differences. Luke identifies Mary as a virgin, engaged to Joseph. A Jewish betrothal involved two steps. First, the formal part including a contract and exchange of a bridal price.

Second, usually a year later, a wedding. Although Mary's age is not given, it's though she was about 12 years old. Mary is referred to as having favor with God. Simply put, she's the chosen vessel for God's grace. The angel reveals her older relative will also bear a child. With God "nothing will be impossible". Mary's response reveals her character. Jesus life is unique in origin, being born of a virgin. God's value of faithfulness and purity are seen here. Mary herself a virgin, is the one who carries the Son of Man. Joseph, faithful to his wife, brings the lineage of David with him and we see the promise in Isaiah 9:7 fulfilled. Together they covenant to raise their son

1. What part of the Christmas season do you most enjoy celebrating? Is there any part of the season that is particularly difficult?
2. What is a significant decision you made in your life, yet did not know all the facts and details? (family, move, school transition, etc.) How did you feel going to the decision? How did it play out?
3. What words and phrases does Luke use to describe Gabriel, Mary and Jesus?
4. Mary is greeted with statements and has the presence of mind to ask some questions. What statements are made to Mary in verse 28, 30–33, 35–37 and what was her response?
5. How would you describe Mary's temperament and demeanor? What does her response in verse 38 indicate?

6. What are some of the qualities that seem to make Mary unlikely candidate to be the mother of Jesus?
7. Luke 1:37 states "For nothing will be impossible with God". What are the impossible" things that God makes happen in verse 26-38?
8. This Christmas season, what challenges are you facing that quite frankly, a solution is "impossible without God"?
9. Mary's response in verse 38 is an example of true discipleship, where she is in submission to God's word and promise. What are the areas of your life you're wrestling with submission to God's word and promises? What steps do you need to take to willingly submit?

Close in Prayer