



friendship
community church

**What Child is This?
The Gospel of Luke
December 9-16, 2018**

Take time to read all the scripture in the group.

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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." Luke 1:26-38

From the Unlikely Pregnancy to the Impossible Pregnancy

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Gabriel comes back this time to visit Mary. Mary is between 12 and 15 years old and she is betrothed (basically marriage but with no sexual relationship)

Mary is not some super teenager - she is favored because God chose her not that she did something great on her own.

There is a difference in how Gabriel approached Zechariah and how he approached Mary. Zechariah being a priest would have had much more "formal religious training" than Mary. A few questions to consider, but not too long. Mary would not have had formal education, but her parents would have instructed her in the ways of God more than likely.

1. What was Mary's childhood possibly like?
2. How about her parents?
3. What might Mary had been thinking now that Gabriel has appeared to her?
4. How did Mary get to the place of saying, , *"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."*? Mary obviously trusted God to be Who He says He is. She was willing to surrender to God's will.
5. What was their position of the heart of Zechariah and the heart of Mary?

Read Genesis 18:14 - *"Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."* This is much like the statement Gabriel makes to Mary when he says, *For nothing will be impossible with God."*

Read *"In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,*

the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Luke 1:39-45 ESV

It had to be encouraging and comforting for Mary to be around Elizabeth.

God provided these ways to assure Mary -

- John leaps in Elizabeth's womb
- Elizabeth pronounces the praise of God
- Mary receives a beautiful song from God

The Magnificat

"And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home."

Luke 1:46-56 ESV.

About the Magnificat (Song of Mary) (One of four hymns in the Gospel of Luke)

4 parts of the Magnificat

1. Mary rejoices that she has the privilege of giving birth to the promised Messiah ([Luke 1:46-48](#)).
2. Mary glorifies God for His power, holiness, and mercy ([Luke 1:49-50](#)).
3. Mary looks forward to God transforming the world through the Messiah. The proud will be brought low, and the humble will be lifted up; the hungry will be fed, and the rich will go without ([Luke 1:51-53](#)).
4. Mary exalts God because He has been faithful to His promise to Abraham ([Luke 1:54-55](#); see God's promise to Abraham in [Gen 12:1-3](#)).^[5]

Mary's Song also resembles Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2. It is interesting to note that both were very clear on their praise and love for God.

v. 56 - And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. (Strongly suggests she was there when John was born.)

A beautiful truth to remember - God knows us and loves us even before we can know and love Him. God knows all about us. We have no secrets from Him.

Ask, What song is God putting in your heart for you to exclaim?

Remember that God is Who He says He is. Remember all that He has done and is doing now.

Share prayer requests and take time to pray.