

Study Guide
Behold The King of Glory
Advent, Week 3
Luke 1:26-56

Last week Bobby unpacked how challenging, complicated and confusing the whole virgin-birth-and still-getting-married thing was for Joseph. Life as he knew it took a strange turn, but Joseph found peace as part of God's story. So, what about the other half of the story? This week we're going to enter into Mary's whirlwind story according to Luke's gospel. This ordinary woman had extraordinary faith and has much to teach us about how to move from anxiety to joy.

Big Idea: Faith transforms anxiety into joy

Read Luke 1:26-56 in its entirety.

The angel's greeting to Mary: Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is **with** you."

- What is the angel trying to communicate by saying the Lord is "with" you? At first glance that is an obvious statement. What deeper point is he trying to get across?
- How have you experienced the Lord **with** you recently?

SHE IS AN ORDINARY WOMAN

- V 26-27. How does Luke describe Mary in the passage and why do you think it is relevant?
- What are Mary's unique stresses? Which ones can you identify with?

SHE IS AN ORDINARY WOMAN WITH EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

- The angel tells her that her life is about to be turned upside down. What is God's attitude regarding disruption?
- Compare and contrast her response to Zechariah's response in a similar announcement (Luke 1-18-20)

- How have you experienced disruption in the past few months and how has it impacted your relationship with God?

EXTRAORDINARY FAITH IS AMPLIFIED IN COMMUNITY

- V39-46 How is joy connected to surprise?
- How is joy and the Holy Spirit interrelated?
- How are we doing as a small group to amplify each other's faith? What is the next step?

HER EXTRAORDINARY FAITH can be our EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

- V 49 How has the Mighty One done great things for you?
- V 51 In what area of your life do you need Jesus (and this group) to lift you up?

Pray for one another

A Prayer: "God- You are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We thank you for forgiving our impossible debt and we pray that you would give us the strength to love others. We have access to outrageous power through Jesus Christ. We want to feel peace and joy in the midst of chaos and suffering. We need the Holy Spirit to move us and to guide us. God, we do not want to be imprisoned by our fear or anxiety. Speak to us. Give us wisdom for the next steps as we walk with you. In Jesus name---AMEN"

Media Outline

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Big Idea: Faith transforms anxiety into joy

Slide

SHE IS AN ORDINARY WOMAN WITH EXTRAORDINARY PRESSURE

Luke 1:26-28

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

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SHE IS AN ORDINARY WOMAN WITH EXTRAORDINARY PRESSURE

Luke 1:29-33

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

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Mary believed what God said:

1. I love you incredibly.
2. I am "with" you always
3. I have a plan for your life.

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Slide

SHE IS AN ORDINARY WOMAN WITH EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

Luke 1:34-38

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

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Slide

FAITH IS BOOSTED IN COMMUNITY

Luke 1:39-45

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

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Big Idea: Faith transforms anxiety into joy

Slide

HER JOY CAN BE OUR JOY

Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”

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Big Idea: Faith transforms anxiety into joy

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Note: All Scripture is NIV