

Bible Study on PREPARE — Luke 1:26-38 For Sunday December 4, 2022

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

Birth of Jesus Foretold

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. 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. 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."

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." 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.

Luke's story is of course principally about Jesus, but the name *Jesus*, does not occur for the first thirty verses. Luke knows that we will need to prepare our minds and hearts for Jesus' story.

1. Describe a time when another person asked you to do something that would be difficult or scary, but you knew would also be good. What was your initial reaction to the request?

2. We can assume that most adults know where babies come from, what is the significance that Mary was a virgin?

3. Why do you think Mary was uncomfortable or troubled by the angels greeting of "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you"?

