



TLC Study Guide for December 10, 2017

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The angel Gabriel makes a return appearance! This time to a young girl in Nazareth pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. Gabriel again brings Good News from God, that the Savior would be born as the Son of God and Son of David, to rule and reign over the Kingdom of God forever. Gabriel reminds Mary that “No word from God will ever fail,” and Mary’s response is one of a humble servant.

Getting Started:

1. How are you feeling with the stress, hurriedness and pace of the Christmas season?
2. How are you making time to spend time with God and to stay focused on Christ?

In the Word: Read Luke 1:26-33

3. What is the subject in verse 26 – and what is the verb? (back to English class!)
4. Mary was living at the time in Nazareth, in the region of Galilee, the same town as her fiancé Joseph. In what region did Zechariah and Elizabeth live? (see verse 39) Do you have a map in your Bible that shows where these two regions are in relationship to each other?
5. The angel Gabriel greets Mary with the words, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” The Latin translation of this phrase was “Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.” Why was Mary considered ‘highly favored’ or ‘full of grace’?
6. What does the name “Jesus” mean? (hint, look up Matthew 1:21)
7. Look for all the royal words or any words relating to a king in verses 32-33 and list them here.

Read Luke 1:34-38

8. Mary asks, 'How will this be?' for good reason. We all may be asking the same question! What other 'miraculous' events surround Jesus' birth that defy logical explanation, and simply need to be accepted by faith?

9. The Virgin Birth is attested here in Luke's Gospel and also in Matthew. Read **Matthew 1:18-20** and compare that with the Luke account. What do they both say about the conception of Jesus?

Putting the Pieces Together

10. Gabriel's words in verse 37 are powerful. What do they mean to you and your relationship with the Lord?

11. Mary's response to the angel's message is pretty remarkable. "I am the Lord's servant." How does Mary teach us to respond to God's word – even when it challenges us or disrupts our lives?

12. How much of this entire passage describes the angel Gabriel, and what he is like? (does that say something?)

13. Mary is a great example of faith. She has been admired and adored through the centuries. What are the limits when it comes to the admiration of Mary? When do we cross the line in giving her too much attention?

14. Have you invited anyone to the Living Nativity yet?

Prayer: Pray that God would help us to have a humble and obedient heart, like Mary, especially when His will is challenging or disrupting to our lives. Help us to acknowledge Jesus as King, and to worship Jesus as our royal Savior this Christmas. Ask God to bless our invitations to the Living Nativity, and the Gospel proclamation of all our Advent activities.

Next Week: Another angel appears! This time to Joseph in a dream, telling him about the child Mary would have, and how he should take her in and name the child Jesus. Joseph also has a response of obedience and faith, trusting that God's word would never fail.