

# Call Me Blessed

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 81, 82, 98

**H**ave you ever been surprised by good news or with a present you weren't expecting? How did you feel? How did you feel about the person who gave you the surprise? A long time ago, a young woman had an unexpected visitor who brought her amazing news.

**I**t started out as a normal, everyday sort of day. Mary was up with the sun, helping with the chores of a Judean household.

First there would be breakfast to help

prepare. After that there would be water to haul, and figs to pick, and wool to spin, and the garden to tend. There would be more meals to fix, of course. And if the day went well, she would find a few minutes to work on wedding plans. Her wedding! She really needed time to plan. Time to gather the things she would need to set up her own home, her home with Joseph. Time was flying by, and she had so much to do.

And then, suddenly, out of nowhere, an

angel stood before

her. He was just

there, as if he

belonged. As if

he'd always been

there. As if Mary

shouldn't have

been stunned to

see him. And the

words that came

out of his mouth

were even

stranger than

the sight of him.

"Greetings!" he

said. "You are highly

favored! The Lord is

with you!"

*What?! thought*

*Mary. I am highly*

*favored? The Lord is*

*with me? But . . . why?*

*What have I done?*

The angel hur-

ried to reassure

her. "Don't be



# The Message

Jesus is God's gift to me.

## Memory Verse

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

(2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV).

afraid, Mary," he said gently. "You have found favor with God! You will soon be with child. You will give birth to a son, and name Him Jesus. He will be wonderful! He will be the Son of the Most High! The Lord will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end!"

Mary's head was spinning. This was so strange, so unexpected. Be with child . . . a son . . . name Him Jesus . . . David's throne . . . kingdom will never end. It was all so startling! She felt the sudden need to sit down.

"But I'm not married," Mary stammered. "How can I have a son?"

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The power of the Most High will overshadow you. The Child who will be born will be holy—the Son of God," the angel explained.

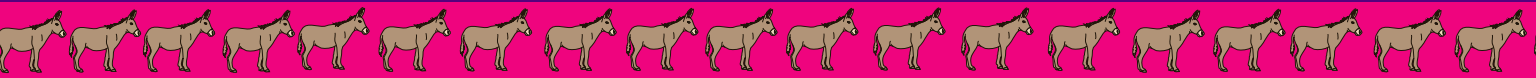
Mary was speechless. What was there to say to a message like that? "I am the Lord's servant," she finally whispered. "May it be to me as you have said." And with that, the angel vanished.

Then Mary had time to think. This day, this everyday, ordinary day, had suddenly turned into the most extraordinary day ever. Neither her life, nor the world, would ever be the same. God was sending His Son to earth! And she had been chosen to be the mother of His Child. This Child would grow up to save His people from their sins. He would establish a kingdom of righteousness that would never end. And she was to be His mother! What greater honor could God have given her? Through her, God was giving the greatest gift

imaginable to all people everywhere.

"From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me," she told her cousin later. There was a lot she still didn't know about the Son she would have. But there was one thing she did know. The birth of this Child was truly a gift like no other.





## S A B B A T H

**DO** With your family, find a quiet place outside, close your eyes, and imagine that you are Mary. How would you feel if an angel came to you? Read the Bible lesson together.

**READ** Read 2 Corinthians 9:15 together. What does the gift mean to you?

**SING** Sing "For God So Loved the World" (Sing for Joy, No. 26). Then thank God for the best gift of all.

## S U N D A Y

**READ** Read Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 with your family. Ask your parents if they ever received an unexpected message. From whom? What was the message?

**DO** Draw a picture of the angel's visit to Mary. Write the angel's name here.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (See Luke 1:26.) Who visited Zechariah in the temple? Write the name here. \_\_\_\_\_ (See Luke 1:19.)

**DO** Say your memory verse. Tell what it means.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** During family worship read Matthew 1:21. The name "Jesus" is the Greek form of the word "Joshua," which means "the Lord saves." Who or what does the Lord save?

**DO** Write the letters J - E - S - U - S, one under the other, down the left side of a paper. List names of family, friends, and others that begin with the letters. Jesus is a gift of salvation to those people. Pray for each one.

**DO** Say your memory verse together. Then give thanks to God.

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** Read Luke 1:26-45 with your family. If possible, look at your baby pictures together. Cut out pictures of baby things needed for a new baby. Paste the pictures on construction paper and write "Waiting for Baby" at the top. How do you think Mary and Joseph prepared for Baby Jesus? Thank God for your family.

**DO** Say your memory verse. Tell how you feel about God's gift.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**READ** With your family, read Mary's song of thankfulness found in Luke 1:46-55. Another Bible mother celebrated and thanked God for giving her a son. What she said reminds us of Mary's song. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Who was she? \_\_\_\_\_

**SING** Make up a tune for your memory verse. Clap your hands or use rhythm instruments to celebrate the gift of Jesus as you sing.



# T H U R S D A Y

**DO** During family worship read John 3:16. Say your memory verse together. What is God's indescribable gift?

**DO** Think of someone you know who needs to know about God's gift. Write that person's name here. \_\_\_\_\_ When and how will you tell that person? Make a plan with your family. Pray for that person every day.

**SING** Sing "John 3:16" (Sing for Joy, No. 24).

Mary and Joseph both came from King David's family. Both Bethlehem and Jerusalem were called "City of David."



# F R I D A Y

**DO** Ask your family to help you act out the Bible lesson during family worship.

**DO** Say your memory verse together. Ask each one to tell why they are thankful for God's indescribable gift.

**SING** Have a gospel song fest. Sing songs about the good news of salvation in Jesus. Sing one song, follow immediately with another song, and then another, until you run out of ideas. Read together Ephesians 5:19, 20. Then thank God for His goodness to your family and for His gift of Jesus.

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## PUZZLE

Directions: Connect the dots to find out who was Mary's unexpected visitor.

