

## **Advent: Mary**

Background: Luke 1 v 26-28 tells us that Mary lived in Nazareth. She was a virgin and was engaged to Joseph. She was highly favoured by God and God was with her.  
(She was probably about 14 years old).



### **Read Luke 1 v 26-38**

What did the angel tell Mary about the baby she would have? (v29-33)

How do you think she felt when she was told these things?

What question did Mary ask in v34?

What was the angel's answer in v35-37?

How would you have responded if you had been Mary?

How did Mary respond? (v38)

Mary did as God said, even though it wasn't the easy option.

Which of God's commands do you find difficult to obey?

Why do you think God asks this (the command you struggle with) of those who love Him?

### **Read Philippians 2 v 5-11**

Written about 30 years after Jesus' death and resurrection, this might be one of the first Christian hymns. We can see Jesus' followers worshipped Him as fully God (v6) and fully human (v7). His conception was a miracle – 'nothing is impossible with God' (Luke 1 v 37).

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, it's not easy to get my head around how the Creator of the world became part of the creation. But that's what you did! You became a tiny baby, born to a teenager in Israel as part of God's amazing plan for you to die on the cross so that I could be forgiven for everything! Thank you!**

If you have a Bible, why not look up the verses yourself instead of just reading them here. I've printed them here for people who don't have a Bible!

Luke 1 v 26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Read Philippians 2 v 5-11

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.