

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Is there anywhere in your life where you feel like God wants to do something wonderful in your life but you are having a hard time believing it? What can you do this week to increase your faith?
- What steps can you take this week to grow in your relationship with Jesus, the Messiah?
- How can you share this message of the Messiah with others around you? Who can you share this message with this week?

PRAYER

- Praise God for the miracle of salvation through sending his son Jesus to come to earth as a baby, live a sinless life, and die for our sins so that we could know God.
- Where it is difficult in your life to believe that nothing is impossible with God? Ask God to help you trust him and believe in him to do what he has promised and to help you in this area.
- Pray for boldness and opportunities to share the story of Jesus with others around you.
- Make a list of people you know who don't yet know Jesus as their Savior and ask God for their salvation each day this week.

NOTES

Those I know who need salvation:



The Advent Foretold

CONNECT

- What have you been told about the events surrounding your birth?
- What's your favorite thing about the Christmas Season?
- How do you think you'd react if an angel had shown up last night and told you that you were going to have a baby?

THOUGHT

God becoming man is one of the greatest miracles of all time. It's interesting that he didn't come as a powerful ruler or invincible warrior as the Jews expected, but rather as a little baby, born in a stable. Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies in his lifetime. Here are 5 from his birth. 1) Jesus will come from the line of Abraham. *Prophecy:* [Genesis 12:3](#). *Fulfilled:* [Matthew 1:1](#). 2) Jesus' mother will be a virgin. *Prophecy:* [Isaiah 7:14](#). *Fulfilled:* [Matthew 1:18-23](#). 3) Jesus will be born in the town Bethlehem. *Prophecy:* [Micah 5:2](#). *Fulfilled:* [Luke 2:1-7](#). 4) Jesus will be a member of the tribe of Judah. *Prophecy:* [Genesis 49:10](#). *Fulfilled:* [Luke 3:33](#). 5) Jesus' birth will be accompanied with great suffering and sorrow. *Prophecy:* [Jeremiah 31:15](#). *Fulfilled:* [Matthew 2:16](#). Some of these, like his birthplace, would have been impossible for him to choose to fulfill, even if he wanted to. Today we'll be studying Jesus' birth foretold and what it means to us, personally.

WORD

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶Even 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. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her."

Luke 1:26–38 (NIV)

1. MARY'S PREDICAMENT

Can you imagine being a young virgin, engaged to a man, and becoming miraculously pregnant? What would have been most difficult for you to comprehend: Being chosen by God? Getting pregnant as a virgin? Giving birth to the Messiah? How to explain this to your fiancé Joseph and others?

2. MARY'S RESPONSE

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name."

Luke 1:46–49 (NIV)

How do you think Mary felt about giving birth to the Messiah? Fear? Honor? Joy? Burden? Mary's response was to declare herself God's servant and to invite God to fulfill his word through her. She followed that up by announcing the news to her relative, Elizabeth with a song of worship. How would you have felt about giving birth to the Messiah? How do you think you would have broken the news to others?

3. INTRODUCING THE MESSIAH

Here is a famous essay about Jesus called One Solitary Life:

He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that **One Solitary Life**.

What about Jesus stands out to you the most? How would you describe your relationship with Jesus and how you came to this place in your relationship with him?