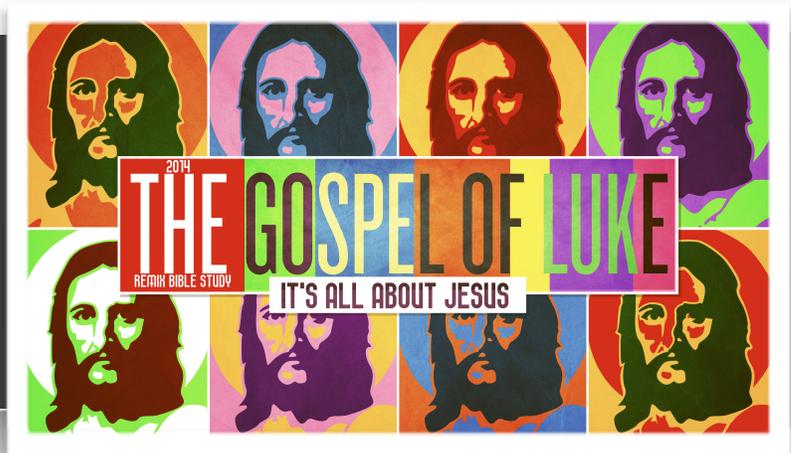


Luke 1:26-38



“....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.. v.35”

What stories have you been told about the events surrounding your birth?

Why did Jesus have to be born by a virgin? Would it have mattered if Mary was already married and no longer a virgin?

Mary is described by angel Gabriel as, “O favored one” (v.28) and as having, “found favor with God” (v.30). Based on this Biblical account, is Mary a dispenser of divine grace or a recipient of it? Explain.

How do you find favor with God? What does Ephesians 1:3-14 have to say about the grace & favor of God?

When and how has God ever demonstrated to you His great love and/or great power?

Break up into two groups, then compare and contrast the words of angel Gabriel to Mary and Zechariah. Group one looks at Zechariah in verse 13-17. Group two looks at Mary in verse 30-33.

From these two accounts, what do we know about John in relation to Jesus, but more importantly, what can we learn about Jesus?

Put yourself in Mary's shoe for a moment. What are some troubling thoughts going through her mind as she listens to the angel's proclamation?

Why do you think the angel told Mary about Elizabeth's condition, (verse 36)?

Unlike Zechariah, Mary responds to the angels incredible announcement by saying, "I am the Lord's servant, ...May your word to me be fulfilled." (v.38). Considering how teenage girls think, how is it possible that Mary, (a young teen herself) simply accepted this message?

What's the most difficult thing you've had to do as a result of becoming a follower of Jesus Christ?

What is one, "impossible" thing in your life you desperately need to believe God for?

How can we pray for one another this week?

Question: "Why is the Virgin Birth so important?"

Answer: The doctrine of the virgin birth is crucially important (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27, 34). First, let's look at how Scripture describes the event. In response to Mary's question, "How will this be?" (Luke 1:34), Gabriel says, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35). The angel encourages Joseph to not fear marrying Mary with these words: "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:20). Matthew states that the virgin "was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18). Galatians 4:4 also teaches the Virgin Birth: "God sent His Son, born of a woman."

From these passages, it is certainly clear that Jesus' birth was the result of the Holy Spirit working within Mary's body. The immaterial (the Spirit) and the material (Mary's womb) were both involved. Mary, of course, could not impregnate herself, and in that sense she was simply a "vessel." Only God could perform the miracle of the Incarnation.

However, denying a physical connection between Mary and Jesus would imply that Jesus was not truly human. Scripture teaches that Jesus was fully human, with a physical body like ours. This He received from Mary. At the same time, Jesus was fully God, with an eternal, sinless nature (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14-17.)

Jesus was not born in sin; that is, He had no sin nature (Hebrews 7:26). It would seem that the sin nature is passed down from generation to generation through the father (Romans 5:12, 17, 19). The Virgin Birth circumvented the transmission of the sin nature and allowed the eternal God to become a perfect man.

SOURCE: <http://www.gotquestions.org/virgin-birth.html>