

GOD BECOMES A MAN (about A. D. 1 in Israel)

Mary's Story – Luke 1:26-38

26God sent the angel Gabriel to talk to a virgin. 27The virgin's name was Mary. Mary was engaged to Joseph.

28The angel said to her, "Hello. God is happy with you! And God is with you." 29Mary was very worried when she heard the angel. She thought: What does the angel mean? 30But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is happy with you.

31"You will become pregnant, and you will have a son. You must name him Jesus. 32He will be very great. He will be called: Son of the Most High God. God will make him king. 33He will be king over Israel. His kingdom will never end."

34"I am a virgin," Mary said. "How is this possible?" 35The angel answered her, "God's Holy Spirit will come on you. God's power will be over you. So your son will be called the Son of God. 37Nothing is impossible with God – God can do anything."

38Mary answered, "I am God's servant. What you said, God can do to me."

Joseph's Story – Matthew 1:18-25

18This is how Jesus Christ was born. Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph. But before Mary and Joseph were married and slept together, Mary became pregnant by God's Holy Spirit. And Joseph found out: Mary is pregnant! 19Joseph was a good man, so he did not want to shame Mary publicly. So he decided to break up with her quietly.

20But after Joseph thought about this, one of God's angels came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby inside her is from God's Holy Spirit. 21She will have a son. You must name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ["Jesus" means: "God saves."]

22This happened exactly as God said about 700 years before in the Old Testament. God said: 23"The virgin will become pregnant. She will have a son. They will call him Emmanuel. *Emmanuel* means "God is with us."

24When Joseph woke up, he did what God's angel told him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. 25But he did not sleep with her – he waited until her son was born. And Joseph named the baby, Jesus.

CONTENT QUESTIONS:**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- When did this story happen?
- Where did it happen?

About Mary:

- What exciting thing would Mary do soon? (verse 27)
- Who was Mary engaged to?
- Who came to Mary? Who talked to Mary?
- Where did the angel come from? (verse 26)
- How did Mary feel when the angel talked to her? (verse 29)

If an angel suddenly came to you, how would you feel?

- What did the angel say to Mary? (verse 31)
- What was the baby's name? (verse 31)
- Whose son was Jesus? Who was Jesus' father. (verse 32)
- What did Mary ask? (verse 34)
- Why did she ask it? (verse 34)
- What did the angel answer? (verse 35)
- What can God do? (verse 37)
- Did Mary do what God wanted her to do? (verse 38)

What do servants do?

Do you think this was easy for Mary?

Do you think she was worried about Joseph?

What would he say?

Who was #1 for Mary? God or Joseph?

About Joseph:

- What was Joseph and Mary's relationship? (verse 18)

- What surprising thing did Joseph learn about Mary? (verse 18)

How did Joseph feel?

What did Joseph think that Mary had done?

- So what did Joseph decide to do? (verse 19)
- What did the angel tell Joseph? (verses 20-21)
- Why was Mary pregnant? (end of verse 20)
- What does the name “Jesus” mean? (verse 21)

Does your name have a meaning? What does it mean?

Why is Jesus’ name important?

- Jesus was God in heaven. Why did Jesus become a human being?
 1. (verse 21)
 2. (verse 23)
- When Joseph woke up, what did he do?

How do you think Joseph felt?

Do you think this was easy for Joseph?

What surprises you about this story?