

# **The Birth of Christ**

Lesson 3

Luke 1:26-56

December 20, 2020

## **Surprised by God's Grace**

### **Introduction**

According to Merriam Webster, one of the many definitions of grace is “the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.” For most Christians, the meaning of grace doesn’t extend much beyond the favor of God. But, God’s grace is at the core of Christianity. God’s grace allows us to grow in Him. Grace motivates us to serve others. Grace will enable us to withstand difficult trials. When we need help or guidance, God’s grace allows us to approach Him with our worries, concerns, and questions. God’s grace allows us an eternity in His presence. We are saved by grace.

***Memory verse: “For no word from God will ever fail.”***

***—Luke 1:37***

Pray and read Luke 1:26-56. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

### **What does the passage say?**

1. What happened in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy? (Luke 1:26-27)

2. What did the angel tell Mary? (Luke 1:30-33, 35-37)
  
3. What was Mary's response? (Luke 1:34, 38)
  
4. Where did Mary go after the angel's visit?  
(Luke 1:39-40)
  
5. What happened when Mary arrived? (Luke 1:41)
  
6. What did Elizabeth say to Mary? (Luke 1:42-45)
  
7. What does Mary say that God has done for her?  
(Luke 1:46-49)
  
8. What does Mary say God has done? (Luke 1:50-55)

## What do the passages mean?

1. Mary was a recipient of God's grace and was surprised that she would be chosen for such an important role. How can we receive God's grace? (Luke 9:23; John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9; Hebrews 4:16; Titus 3:4-7)
  
2. Mary's observable traits made her a good choice to be the mother of Jesus. She is obedient (Luke 1:38), faithful (Luke 1:28, 30, 47), humble (Luke 1:48), and pure (Luke 1:27, 34). How should those same traits be evident in our lives? (2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 3:12; 1 Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 11:6; James 4:10)
  
3. God found favor in Mary by His grace and her upright life (Luke 1:28, 30). How is God's grace a motivation for living like Christ? (Romans 12:1, Ephesians 5:2; Titus 2:11-12; 1 Peter 1:13-16)

4. Mary was called by God and took it seriously. Even though she was young and unimportant by the world's standards, God chose her for something incredibly important. How should we prepare ourselves to be used for God's purpose? (Philippians 4:8; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:22; Titus 2:7-8; 2 Peter 1:5-7)
  
5. Reread Luke 1:54-55. Mary remembers God's promise to Abraham and his descendants. And through Mary, God is carrying out His perfect plan. How does God continue to carry out His perfect plan through us? (Proverbs 19:21; Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28)

### **Applying the passage**

1. What qualities of a godly person, like Mary, would you like to have? What do you need to do to begin to develop those qualities?

2. Do you live a life that would find you favor in God's eyes? What part of your life would keep God from looking favorably on you? What part of your life needs God's grace?

3. Write a prayer asking for God's forgiveness and thanking Him for the grace He has given.