

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” - Luke 1:41-42

I. GOD'S GRACE IN MARY'S LIFE

- God chose Mary to be the God-bearer - *Theotokos* (Luke 1:26-38; 43).
- God looked on her “humble estate” (Luke 1:48).
- God confirmed his plan to both her and Joseph, her betrothed, via angelic visits (Matt. 1:18-25).
- God will pour out his grace upon Mary, for she is “highly favored” (Luke 1:28).
- Further confirmation and a prophetic word concerning her son (Luke 2:22-38).

II. GOD'S PURPOSE IN MARY'S LIFE

- To bring forth the Savior of the world, who will do at least six things to accomplish his mission:
 1. He will be called Jesus - “He saves” (Luke 1:31).
 2. He will be great (Luke 1:32).
 3. He will be called Son of the Most High (Luke 1:32).
 4. He will receive the throne of David (Luke 1:32).
 5. He will reign forever (Luke 1:33).
 6. There will be no end to his kingdom (Luke 1:33).

III. GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO MARY

- Salvation through her earthly son, and God's eternal Son, and a place in the community of believers (Acts 1:12-14).
- Mary has received honor, and in some instances, worship, in this world. It pales in comparison to what she experiences now (1 Cor. 13:12; Phil. 3:7-11).

KNOW: Mary was a humble servant of the Lord. In response, the Lord blessed her more than any woman has ever been blessed. She was given the honor of bearing the Christ child. She bore Jesus in the flesh, and Jesus saved her soul in return.

DO: Choose Jesus over a name in this world.

Suggested Reading:

The Mother of God by Tim Keller
(Available on Amazon Kindle)

For Children:

All About Christmas by Allison Mitchell
(Available in the LifePoint Children's Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Luke 1:26-55; Acts 1:12-14

1. Most people want to leave “their mark on history.” Why, do you think? What is gained if people talk about us when we’ve died?
2. How do you picture Mary in your mind? What does she look like, act like, talk like?
3. How far should we go in our praise of Mary? Adoration? Veneration? Deep respect? Or just another person like us? Why?
4. Mary played a vital role in Jesus’ life and ministry. Why do you think the Bible tells us so little about her?
5. What “mark” did Mary leave on history? Was it primarily her doing or God’s doing?
6. What has God made you to do? What is his purpose in and through you? Are you cooperating with that?