

Mary

Introduction:

There are multiple angles of the Christmas story that appear to be counter-cultural. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is no exception. Being only 13 years of age, an unmarried virgin, and lowly in nature, she almost misses every level of criteria that we would initially think for someone to bring the Son of God into the world. And yet, the Father was delighted to choose Mary as His candidate to bear Jesus. And as we progress through the story, the statement becomes true that says, "If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it." Through all the trials that Mary would have had to go through – fear of being stoned for adultery, fear of divorce from Joseph, fear of being a teenage mother, fear of bearing God's only Son – God provided for her and used her as His vessel. Mary was a sinner who needed Jesus to be her Savior (Luke 1:46-47). This is also mentioned in the line of the song *Mary Did You Know*, when it says, "This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you." However, God used even Mary for His grand purposes in this world.

Read Your Bible

- 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Luke 1:39-56

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What all do you know to be true about Mary?
2. Why do you think God chose Mary of all people to bring Jesus into the world?
3. If Jesus would have been born today, who do you think the Father would have chosen to be His mom? In other words, *who is the modern Mary?*

4. Our text says that Mary was *blessed among women*. How would you define the word *blessed*? Who is blessed in our world today? (Read Luke 1:45)
5. The Mighty One did great things for Mary by choosing her to bear Jesus. What great things has the Mighty One done for you?
6. How can we, like Mary, believe that the Lord will fulfill His promises to us? How can we be made sure of this?
7. What are 1-3 lessons we can learn from the life of Mary?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Father In Heaven, thank you for choosing Mary to be the mother of our Lord Jesus. We ask today that, like Mary, you would make us lowly, obedient, and eternally blessed. Help us to believe the promises you have not only made for Mary, but for us, by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.