

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

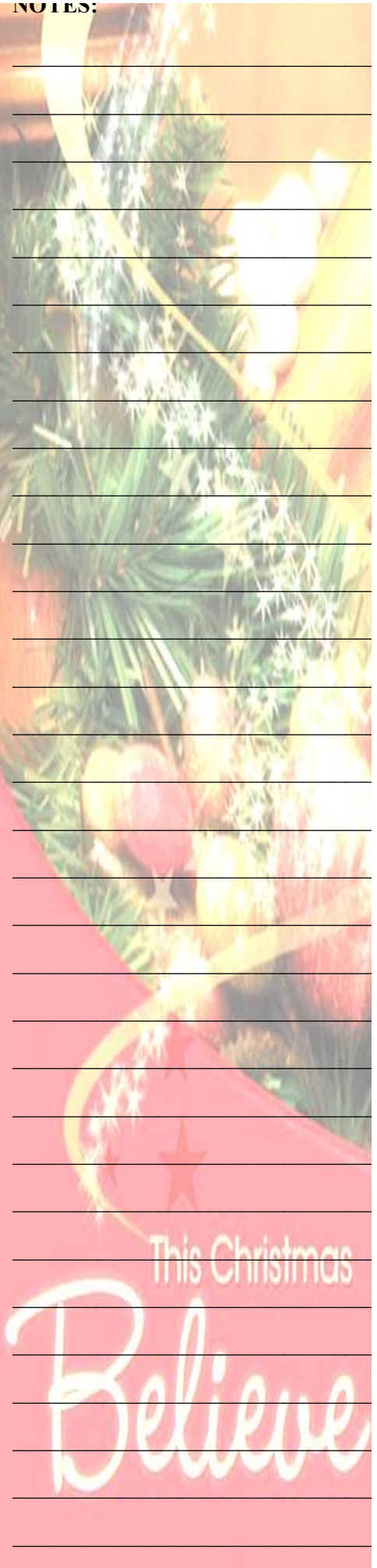
29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

NOTES:



The Story of Mary
Luke 1:26-38

Believe!
This Christmas



Daily Devotionals

Monday - Luke 2:21-40

- oIf this were you as a parent bringing your child to church for the first time, how would you describe this experience?
- oReread verse 35. How effectively do you think the second half of this verse describes parenting? Jesus didn't make any mistakes and yet His life would be painful to His parents. How is it possible for even good living and decisions to cause pain?
- oReread verse 39-40. What's the biblical equation for parenting? In other words, what is the parent's responsibility and what is God's?

Tuesday - read Luke 2:41-52

- oMary and Joseph weren't careless parents, Jesus could have been with either parent. In your own words express Mary's feelings here?
- oReread verse 48. Have you ever felt mistreated, slighted or hurt, only to have misinterpreted your own circumstances? What can you do?
- oReread verse 51. What did she treasure in her heart? The good, the bad and the ugly? Spend a few minutes thanking God for ALL He's given.

Wednesday - read John 2:1-11

- oWhat was Mary saying in verse 2 beyond "they have no more wine"? She was implying something Jesus should do... what was it?
- oReread verse 4-5. In these verses it appears Jesus disagrees with His mother's timing, but is obedient anyway...why?
- oIn your own words describe the relationship between Jesus and His mother. Does this make Jesus seem more real/human? Why or why not?

Thursday - read Matthew 12:46-50

- oJesus' family was coming to get Him because they were worried about Him. Were their fears for Jesus rational?
- oJesus' definition of family could have been hurtful to His actual family, but what was He trying to teach?
- oWhat can you do today to ensure that you are in "the family"?

Friday - read John 19:25-27

- oPut yourself in Mary's shoes for a moment. Describe this day.
- oJesus commented on the welfare of His mother from the cross. What does this indicate about their relationship? What would it mean to the disciple John He spoke it to?
- o"From that time on..." Have you had one of those moments? A moment that from that point forward everything changed and was never the same? If not, what's holding you back?

