

mary's CHRISTMAS

Sunday, November 27, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 1 | Faithful Courage

Luke 1:26-38

MARY (v. 26-28)

obscurity v. 26-27

God's grace v. 28

shows **FAITHFULNESS** to God's call (v. 29-34)

loyal, steadfast

full of faith v. filled with doubt Luke 1:34ff, Luke 1:18ff

and **COURAGE** in her "yes" to his plan. (v. 35-38)



Text us at **833-271-8805**. — Text "ADVENT" to get daily readings December 1 to 25!

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

youareloved.church

GOOD NEWS!

What is the Gospel? Good News!

The word gospel literally means "good news" and it shows up 93 times in the New Testament. The Gospel is, broadly speaking, the whole Bible; more narrowly, the Gospel is the good news concerning Christ and the way of salvation. **It's at the foundation of our Christian faith.**

One helpful way to think about the Gospel is to think of it in terms of directions on a map.

Let's say you wanted to drive to Fairbanks, Alaska. Chances are you wouldn't just hop in the car and start driving, hoping to end up in Fairbanks. You'd look up directions. Along the route would be a number of waypoints you'd have to pass by in order to make it safely there.

In our metaphor of the Gospel the endpoint isn't Fairbanks, it's Jesus. The destination isn't Alaska, it's being made right with God, and enjoying him forever in heaven.

So how do you get there? Follow the waypoints of the Gospel.

1. God created you to know him, love him, and be loved by him. GENESIS 1:26-27 | JOHN 3:16

2. All of us sin, separating us from God and resulting in death. ROMANS 3:23 | ROMANS 6:23 (*This is the bad news...*)

3. But the good news is Jesus died in our place and rose from the grave, so that we might know God's love and have real life. ROMANS 5:8 | EPHESIANS 2:4-5

4. The only way to know and experience this is to believe on Jesus Christ. ROMANS 10:9 | JOHN 1:12

To be made right with God (i.e. become a true Christian), simply proclaim "Jesus is my Lord," and believe in your heart God accepted Christ in your place and raised him from the dead.

You might pray something like this: "Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I believe you are Lord, and I receive you as my Savior. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life. Change me. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen."

In reality, point 4 alone contains the directions. Jesus said, "I am the way... no one comes to God except through me." But the other 3 points are waypoints to ensure you find yourself on the right road... believing on/ putting your faith in/trusting Jesus.

Consider using these points to help you share the Gospel with someone. Read and memorize the Scriptures listed as well. They'll help you share your faith AND strengthen your life in Jesus.

For more Gospel helps, visit youareloved.church/pearl



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Each week we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

Share with the Group:

The Christmas season is upon us! Whether you're an early decorator or a last-minute shopper, here are some fun questions to help get you in the Christmas mood.

- *What Christmas movie or show have you seen far more than any other? Are there any you must watch every year?*
- *Which one or two Christmas characters listed below are you most like? What do you think those closest to you would say?*

Buddy the Elf | Ralphie (The Christmas Story) | Charlie Brown | Mrs. Claus | Santa The Grinch | Cindy Lou Who | Frosty the Snowman | George Bailey (It's a Wonderful Life) Clark Griswold (Christmas Vacation) | Kevin McCallister (Home Alone) | Other?

- *As a kid, what was an ultimate, fun, dream present you hoped to receive? (Note – this can include something you actually received or it can be something you wanted badly but never got!)*

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. Study Gabriel's announcement to Mary below.
• **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
– **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
– **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible “home”, we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Luke 1:34-38 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

³⁴ And **Mary** said to the **angel**, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the **angel** answered her, “The **Holy** Spirit will **come** upon you, and the **power** of the **Most High** will **overshadow** you; therefore the **child** to be **born** will be

called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And **behold**, your **relative Elizabeth** in

her old age has **also** **conceived** a son, and this is the **sixth month** with her who was **called barren**.

³⁷ For **nothing** will be **impossible** with God.”

³⁸ And **Mary** said, “**Behold**, I am the **servant** of the **Lord**; let it be to me **according** to your word.” And the **angel** **departed** from her.

S E R V A N T I O M A R Y
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life groups Study Guide (continued)

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- Why does Gabriel refer to Mary as a “favored one”?
- In your thoughts, do you see yourself more as a “favored one” by God, or a “disfavored one”? Why or why not? (You might use your imagination . . . if Gabriel appeared to you, what would he call you?) — Which is true?
- Some have suggested that Mary was favored because of what she was in herself, that she had grace to bestow on others, and that she remained a virgin forever.

2. What is something you learned about Mary this week that you'd not considered before?
3. Once source of Mary's courage was surely her hope (her confident assurance) in God . . . In his goodness. In his love for her. In his faithfulness to keep his word. Take a moment to read through and reflect on the following passages, asking God to speak to you about the hope we have in Jesus. Jot down anything that catches your attention regarding the hope and power of who Jesus is and what God has done for us.

1 Peter 1:3-7 Romans 15:13 Psalm 33:18-22

- Looking back at what you wrote above, what is the best reminder to help you keep your hope in Jesus alive during this Christmas season?
- For extra credit, go back to **Luke 1:28-38** up above. Where do you sense Mary's hope? (For *double* extra credit, read the rest of Luke 1 and answer that same question.)

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women** and pray for one another.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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mary's CHRISTMAS

Sunday, November 27, 2022

PART 1

Faithful Courage

LUKE 1:26-38



We're Glad You're Here Today!
Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! **You can also access today's bulletin** using the same QR or link.