



PROMISE KEPT

God's promised Messiah is Jesus Christ, His Son.

LUKE 1:26-38

After God made Adam and Eve, He told them not to eat the fruit from one tree in the garden. When they disobeyed God, their sin caused all people to be separated from God. God made a plan to send the Messiah, a promised Savior, to save people from sin and give them an eternal relationship with God.

God prepared for the future Messiah. God chose Abraham to begin the tribes of Israel. Luke 3:23-38 shows Jesus' family line: Adam, Seth, Noah, Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, Joseph, and then Jesus. It is amazing to see the family line and God's promise that He would send a Messiah through the tribe of Judah. God never forgets His promise and He saves people from eternal separation through Jesus.

The word "Messiah" comes from the Hebrew word "mashiach," which means "anointed one" or "chosen one." The word "Christ" comes from the Greek word "christos" which means "anointed." This term became synonymous with Messiah. This week we take time to celebrate that God kept His promise by sending us Jesus the Messiah!

LUKE 1:26-38

26 During **Elizabeth's** **A** sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel **Gabriel** **B** to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin. She was **engaged** **C** to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. **28** The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has **blessed you** **D** and is with you." **29** But Mary was **very startled** by what the angel said and wondered what this greeting might mean. **30** The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace. **31** Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him 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 King David**, **E** his ancestor. **33** He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since **I am a virgin?**" **F** **35** The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God. **36** Now Elizabeth, your relative, is also pregnant with a son though she is very old. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. **37** God can do anything!" **38** Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

- a. Elizabeth was Zechariah's wife and Mary's cousin. Zachariah and Elizabeth were both from the tribe of Levi.
- b. The same angel who spoke to Zechariah in Luke 1:11-20.
- c. An engagement was as binding as marriage and would have required a divorce to be broken (Matt. 1:18-19).
- d. Mary was "graced" by God's presence and by being chosen to be the mother of Jesus.
- e. Joseph was a descendant of David, part of the tribe of Judah, the same family line as the prophesied Messiah (2 Sam. 7:13).
- f. A fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, which is quoted in Matthew's Gospel (1:23).

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Why did God promise us a Messiah?
2. How did God keep His promise to King David?
3. How did Mary feel about God choosing her to do His work?
4. What was God's plan for this promised baby?
5. How did Mary become pregnant without sex?
6. What made Jesus' conception different from everyone else?
7. How does God's sending Jesus affect everyone today?
8. How should we respond to God when he calls us to do His work?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Verses about the Promised Messiah*

Read these verses and write down what they say about the promised Messiah.

Genesis 28:14 _____

Genesis 49:10 _____

Isaiah 7:14 _____

Isaiah 9:6 _____

Micah 5:2 _____

Zechariah 9:9 _____

IN MY CONTEXT

God made a promise in the beginning that He would send a Messiah because of Adam and Eve's fall into sin (Gen. 3:15). Then God took action to make the plan for the future Messiah to come in His time.

God told His promise to several prophets. God never forgets His promises. God sent His Son, Jesus, to the world at the right time.

Because God did what He promised, we can trust God and His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins.

We can trust God and accept His Word. We can obey Him with willing hearts to do whatever He wants us to do.

What are some of God's promises that have been completed?

How do you feel about God keeping His promise to send the Messiah?

What can you do to commit yourself to God and His work today?

What are some problems that cause believers not to do God's work? How can we encourage each other to obey Him?

MEMORY VERSE

He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end. - Luke 1:33

DAY ONE

Read Luke 1:26-29, noticing how Mary was addressed.

Luke 3:23-38 records the family line of Mary. Matthew 1:1-16 records the family line of Joseph. Both Mary and Joseph are from the line of King David. Joseph came from King Solomon (King David's son) and Mary came from Nathan (King David's other son). God chose Mary and Joseph to become parents of the Messiah.

Gabriel is an angel. Angels are God's messengers. God sent Gabriel to give a message to Mary of what God was going to do. God kept His promise and now it was time for His promise to happen. God took the action to make a way of salvation through His Son. God always takes the action to make His plan successful and He always keeps His promises. Whatever God has planned in your life, He will take the action at the right time to make His plan successful in your life.

How have you seen God work in your life?

List some things God is doing in your life right now.

DAY TWO

Read Luke 1:30-33, memorizing verse 33.

What makes the birth of Jesus the greatest birth in the history of the world? Gabriel outlined four reasons for His greatness. First, Jesus is the Son of the Most High, meaning the Supreme God. As Mary's son, Jesus would be fully human; as the Son of Most High, Jesus would be fully God. The reason for His greatness was not because He was Mary's son, but because He was God's Son. Second, Jesus' greatness is seen in that God will give him the throne of his father David, fulfilling God's covenant of an eternal kingdom from David's family (2 Sam. 7:13-16).

Third, Jesus is great because he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, fulfilling God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3). With the birth of Jesus, God would fulfill all His promises to the patriarchs of old. Fourth, Jesus is great because his kingdom will have no end (Rev. 17:14; 19:16).

What other things would you list that make Jesus great?

DAY THREE

Read Luke 1:34-35, circling Mary's question.

Mary asked only one question. Her question did not mean she doubted God. She wanted to understand. Mary asked the angel how she could get pregnant and still be a virgin. Gabriel explained she would get pregnant through God's supernatural power. There is no way for any woman to get pregnant without sex or without a doctor's help. That is why we recognize Jesus' birth as special, because He was conceived in a supernatural way.

Gabriel also explained that Jesus would be holy and be called the Son of God. This meant that Jesus would have no sin at birth because He came from God who is holy. In Matthew 16:16, Jesus asked His disciples "who do you think I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is important to recognize Jesus as the Son of God because that is who Jesus is. Believers now can have confidence knowing that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save those who follow and obey Him.

How can you show others that you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

DAY FOUR

Read Luke 1:36-37, noticing the age of Elizabeth.

Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth. Mary knew Elizabeth because they were relatives. Elizabeth was six months pregnant at that time. Verse 26 says that Elizabeth was six months pregnant at that time. Elizabeth was old in age and past the birthing years, but God made it possible for her to become pregnant with John the Baptist. God planned to use John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. John the Baptist had an important job to do for God.

Gabriel's news about Elizabeth helped Mary have more confidence in God's message to her. It seemed impossible for an older woman to become pregnant. It seemed impossible for a virgin to become pregnant. God can do the impossible.

Verse 37 is important to remember: "God can do anything!" Whatever is impossible with us, God can make it possible. Nothing is impossible for God. Remember Abraham's wife, Sarah, couldn't get pregnant and then God told Abraham that Sarah would get pregnant and have a son, Isaac (Gen. 17:18; 18:13-14). We can trust that God is powerful and nothing is impossible for Him.

List some things that God has made possible for you which were impossible.

KEY DOCTRINE: *Omnipotence*

God is all-powerful. God has supreme power over everything on earth and in heaven. God can do supernatural works that no one can do, such as causing Mary to become pregnant and remain a virgin. God has all the power to do whatever He decides to do. We can depend on His power.

DAY FIVE

Read Luke 1:38, underlining Mary's response.

Mary was willing to accept the responsibility of giving birth to God's son, Jesus. Mary was humble and willing to accept God's plan for her. It was a big responsibility for her, but she trusted God to help her do the job she needed to do.

Every person who gives their life to Jesus and follows and obeys Him is called His servant. God uses His servants to do special work for Him. As believers, we have a big responsibility to do what God wants us to do. The Bible has several commands that God wants us to obey. It is up to us to obey and do what God expects us to do. Sometimes His work is hard and it is easy to go away and not do the work, but that is not obeying Him. When we do not obey and do not do His work, then God goes to someone else and gets His work done. Then we miss the opportunity to be used by God. Believers, let us be humble, willing to obey Him and committing to do the work that God has planned for each of us to do.

How are obedience and humility connected? How do they work together?

CONNECT AND SHARE

Think about what you have learned from Luke 1:26-38. Meet with one or two members of your study group to find ways to live what you have learned.

How has the promised Messiah influenced you today? Do you exhibit Jesus Christ in your daily life?

How can you share about God's promised Messiah with others?

How do you know that God is calling you to do a special work for Him? How should you respond?

PROMISE KEPT

Luke 1:26-38

PLAN AHEAD

Pray for group members. Pray they will trust God to do what He promises.

Enlist a volunteer to prepare to sign the story of Elizabeth becoming pregnant from Luke 1:5-25.

Recruit five volunteers to each prepare to sign one of the verses from the Bible Skill.

Write the outline for the session on the board.

Be prepared to answer questions members may have from the readings for last week.

FOCUS ATTENTION

ASK: *Have you ever made a promise to someone and then you were not able to do what you promised? How did you feel about that?*

EXPLAIN: *In today's session we see God has the power to do anything He wants to do. When God makes a promise, He will do it. We can trust Him to do what He says He will do.*

LEAD the group to discuss questions 1-2 from Explore the Text.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. The Greeting (Luke 1:26-29)

SIGN verses 26-29. Gabriel was one of the heavenly messengers who brought God's special message to an individual. He appeared to Daniel to explain the king's dream and the meaning of the dream and to Zachariah to tell him about his son, John the Baptist. In today's lesson, Gabriel appeared to Mary (verse 26).

LEAD the group to discuss questions 3-4 from Explore the Text in the Personal Study Guide.

2. The Promise (Luke 1:30-33)

SIGN verses 30-33. **LEAD** the group to discuss question 5-6 from Explore the Text. Gabriel was very specific in his description of the baby. From his description, Mary would know this baby was the promised Messiah. There are many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.

ASK the five volunteers to take turns signing one of the verses in the Bible Skill. **ALLOW** time to discuss each prophecy and how Jesus fulfilled that prophecy.

3. The Explanation (Luke 1:34-37)

SIGN verses 34-37. We may wonder why Mary questioned what would happen. She was a Jew and likely knew the stories of Noah and Moses and knew of miracles God did in the past. But there had been no new prophecies for over four hundred years. The Jews did not see miracles for a long time. It makes sense that Mary was shocked to see an angel and to hear about God's plan. Mary's question did not mean she didn't believe the angel, she just didn't know how she could be pregnant.

The angel encouraged Mary by telling her about her relative, Elizabeth.

ASK the volunteer to sign the story about Elizabeth's pregnancy. After the story **ASK**: *How do you think this news helped Mary? How can we encourage other believers to believe God's Word?* We can share how His Word has helped us and how God works in us.

4. The Commitment (Luke 1:38)

SIGN verse 38. When we see Mary's response to Gabriel, we can understand why God chose her. She was a willing servant. Wouldn't we like to trust God that much and be willing to do anything God asked of us? **LEAD** the group to discuss questions 7-8 from Explore the Text.

IN MY CONTEXT

REVIEW the main points of today's session from In My Context. **LEAD** the group to discuss the questions. **ENCOURAGE** members to do the daily readings for the week and get together with someone for Connect and Share.

CLOSE with prayer. **ASK** God to help the group trust Him to do what He has promised.