

A SURPRISE GIFT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

Have you ever been minding your own business when someone pops up out of nowhere? You might jump! “You scared me, I didn’t see you there!”

That’s what happened to Mary. She was doing her work on a day no different from any other day when suddenly, an unexpected visitor showed up. This visitor was an angel with a very surprising message for her: “You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.”

Mary couldn’t imagine this at all, and honestly, it sounded a little bit scary. “How will this happen?” she wanted to know. But the angel told her not to be afraid. “God can do everything!”

Now Mary had a choice: believe the angel or turn away and say, “This is impossible! I must be dreaming!” Mary thought for a minute. She remembered that God was good and she could trust him, and then, even though she felt a little nervous, she said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” And from that moment on, her very ordinary life became quite extraordinary.



The angel telling Mary that she will soon be pregnant.

Luke 1:26-38

During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, “Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.” But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, “What does this mean?” The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He

will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end.” Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen? I am a virgin!” The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!” Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” Then the angel went away.

Devotional Activity

1. When was the last time you were surprised? What did it feel like?
2. What are some true things about God that you can remember when you feel nervous or scared?
3. Does God only work with extraordinary people? Can you think of other ordinary people in the Bible, like Mary, who God used?