



**Series:** God's Christmas Grace  
**Passage** Luke 1:26-38, 1:46-55  
**Title:** God's Christmas Grace 2  
**Speaker:** Pastor JC Cooper- 12/20/2020

**Discussion Starter** – Why did God choose a humble young girl from an out of the way, unsophisticated town to bear his son? What does this say about the things God values? What does this say about God's view of us?

### Who Jesus Is

- Why does Luke mention that Joseph was from the house of David? What does it mean to be from the house of David?
- Pastor JC explained that there were three phases to first century Jewish marriage. What were they? In which of the three stages were Joseph and Mary living? What legal process was required if their relationship was to end?
- Who was Gabriel? What physical characteristics did Gabriel likely exhibit? Why was Mary "troubled" by Gabriel's presence? Gabriel called Mary by name. What does this say about God's care for us and understanding of us?
- Why do you think the exact birth date of Jesus is not recorded in the Bible? What evidence is recorded in the bible that indicates that Jesus was not actually born in December?

### The Christmas Story is Focused on Jesus

- Luke mentions some characteristics of Jesus. What are they? (verse 32-35)
- What is the "Immaculate Conception"? Why was it important that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and not by a man? (verse 35)
- What was Mary's response to the angel? What four character attributes do we see being manifested in Mary that reveal her faith in Jesus? How should we respond when faced with scripture that we perceive to be far-fetched (like the virgin birth)? Or by commands that we might find unpalatable?
- What consequences might an unmarried, pregnant woman face in first century Jewish culture? Do you think Mary was fearful?
- Mary said, "Let it be to me according to your word" (verse 38). How do you respond when your faith requires potential danger or hardship?
- Read verses 46-55. From these verses, what kind of relationship did Mary have with God? List five things in these verse that remind you of God's Christmas grace.

### Baptism (Romans 6:3-11)

- Is baptism required for salvation? What does water baptism represent? Name three things Paul says about baptism in these verses.