

2016 Fellowships Joint Bible Study (03/2016)

Student's Version

Guidelines

- 1. Spread out the work over several days.** Allow time for the things God is teaching you to sink in.
- 2. Pray each time before you start.** Pray for a humble heart and ask God to help you to understand and apply what you have learned.
- 3. Unless specified, answer the questions without consulting the Commentary or Internet.** The goal is to develop a habit to think and meditate God's Word on your own with the help of Holy Spirit.

Mary-Servant of the Lord

Introduction

Mary is regarded as someone who was profoundly blessed by God (Luke 1:48). Among all women, God has chosen her to be Jesus' mother. While acknowledging her special status, we have to remember that she is no different from us that she is a human. We should only pray to and worship her son Jesus, not Mary herself.

Visited by an angel: Luke 1:26-38

Mary was from the city of Galilee named Nazareth. What do people think of Nazareth (John 1:45-46)?

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What was the angel's announcement to Mary?

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What was Mary's first reaction after hearing that she would be pregnant?

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Do you think the people would believe Mary's story about conceiving by Holy Spirit? What would people think about her? What kind of struggles would she face?

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After the angel explains that she will conceive by the Holy Spirit (verse 35), how does Mary's response show her faith (verse 38)?

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Reflection/Sharing

What lesson do you learn from Mary's response (v. 38) and how can you apply this lesson to your life?

- Submitting to God's plan in our life takes faith and sacrifice.

***Youth:** God chose Mary who was from Nazareth, not a famous city like Jerusalem. If someone looks down on you because of your background, how should you respond? Or do you look down on others?*

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***Adult:** Discuss idolatry of Mary. Why do you think people worship Mary?*

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Passover at the Temple: Luke 2:41-51

What was Jesus' family doing in Jerusalem? What does it tell you about the family?

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What was Jesus doing when Mary and Joseph found him? What is so special about this?

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Jesus said that He was in His Father's house. Where was He? Whom did He refer to as His father?

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What and why didn't the parents understand about Jesus?

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What did Mary and Jesus do after the discussion?

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Reflection/Sharing

Youth: Do you think your parents always understand you? Give examples when they are not.

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Youth: How do you feel when you were misunderstood by your parents?

What do you learn from Jesus when Mary did not understand Him?

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Adult: If you have children, do you think you always understand them? Give examples when you don't.

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Adult: How do you feel when your children think that you do not understand them?

What do you learn from Mary when she did not understand Jesus?

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Near the cross: John 19:25-27

Mary was with Jesus when He was crucified on the cross. Can you picture and describe what Mary saw?

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What was Jesus' request of the beloved disciple?

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Reflection/Sharing

Do you think she understood why Jesus was crucified? Can you describe her emotions?

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Last mention of Mary (Acts 1:14)

When and where did this take place (Acts 1:9, 12)?

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What was Mary doing?

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Reflection/Sharing

Mary was praying with all disciples with one accord in Acts 1:14. What is the significance?

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From this study, how will you describe Mary as a mother and as a follower of God?

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(Bible study leaders: Please finish on time by 8:30PM and join the wrap-up in the sanctuary. Thanks!)