

Church Year Story 2
The Annunciation of Our Lord

Catechism and Memory Verse
from the Congregation at Prayer for the Week

BIBLE STORY: THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

Luke 1:26-38

Central Thoughts

- The eternal Son of God is conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God spoken to her by the angel Gabriel.
- Jesus is without sin because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and not by a sinful man.
- Jesus is true God and also true man to be the sin bearer for the whole world.
- Jesus is the Christ, or Messiah, because He is born of the tribe of Judah and the house of David, fulfilling every promise of salvation in the Old Testament Scriptures.
- Mary receives the Word of God by faith.
- Mary is an example of what it is to be a Christian: She is a sinner who is called by the grace of God to receive the gift of salvation.

Discussion Questions

What does "Annunciation" mean?

Announcement. It refers to Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary of Jesus' birth.

To what does the "sixth month" refer?

The sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.

What does the word "virgin" tell us about Mary?

She had not had sexual relations with a man.

Where was Mary from?

Nazareth of Galilee

What was Mary's lineage or genealogy?

She was a descendant of the family of King David. (See Mary's genealogy, Luke 3:23-38).

What do the words "Rejoice, highly favored one" and "You have found favor with God" mean?

They are words of grace and mercy. Mary was chosen to be the mother of the Savior by grace alone and not because of any worthiness in her.

Why was Mary troubled by the angel's greeting?

She was a sinner.

What do the words "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" proclaim to Mary?

The forgiveness of all her sins—a word that cleanses, sanctifies, and declares her to be pure.

How is the Son of God conceived in Mary's womb?

By the Holy Spirit, through the Lord's Word spoken to her that she would conceive and bring forth a Son.

Upon what promise of God is this announcement to Mary based?

Genesis 3:15, the promised Seed of the Woman who would crush the serpent's head.

What does the name of Jesus mean?

"The Lord is salvation" or "the Lord saves"

What does "Son of the Highest" mean?

Son of God the Father. Jesus is true God.

Who is "the Lord God" who will give Mary's Son the throne of David?

God the Father

How many fathers does Gabriel refer to in his announcement of Jesus' conception?

Two, God the Father and King David.

What does this teach us about Jesus?

He is both true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary.

Why is Jesus called the Son of David?

He is, according to the flesh, the promised descendant of King David, according to the flesh, and the anointed Savior (Christ or Messiah). His humanity came from King David. Jesus is both true man, the Messiah promised to Israel, and true God, born of the Virgin.

What is the “the house of Jacob”?

All people who believe in the promise of salvation made to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Why does Mary ask, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

She has not had sexual relations with a man, and the angel has not yet told her how the child will be conceived.

What does the angel tell Mary?

“The Holy Spirit [the Third Person of the Holy Trinity] will come upon you and the power of the Highest [God the Father, the First Person of the Holy Trinity] will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God [the Second Person of the Holy Trinity].”

Why is it important that Gabriel uses the word “holy” twice in verse 35?

Because it is the Holy Spirit who sanctifies or cleanses Mary’s flesh by the Word so that the Son of God is conceived and born of human flesh but without the corruption of original sin.

What do the angel’s words emphasize?

That Jesus’ conception and birth is entirely a gift of God. The virgin conception and birth of the Savior and the conception of John in the womb of a barren woman are both miracles of God’s grace. “For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Upon what Old Testament promise does the virgin birth of Christ rest?

Isaiah 7:14—“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (God with us).

Why is the virgin birth so important for our salvation?

Jesus is conceived and born without sin, so that He might be the bearer of all our sin for us..

What role did the sinful Virgin Mary play in the conception and birth of the Son of God?

She received the gift of God’s Word by the Holy Spirit, and the Son of God was conceived of her flesh without sin. It was entirely a miracle of God’s grace.

How does Mary confess her faith in the Lord’s Word?

“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your Word.”

How is Mary like us?

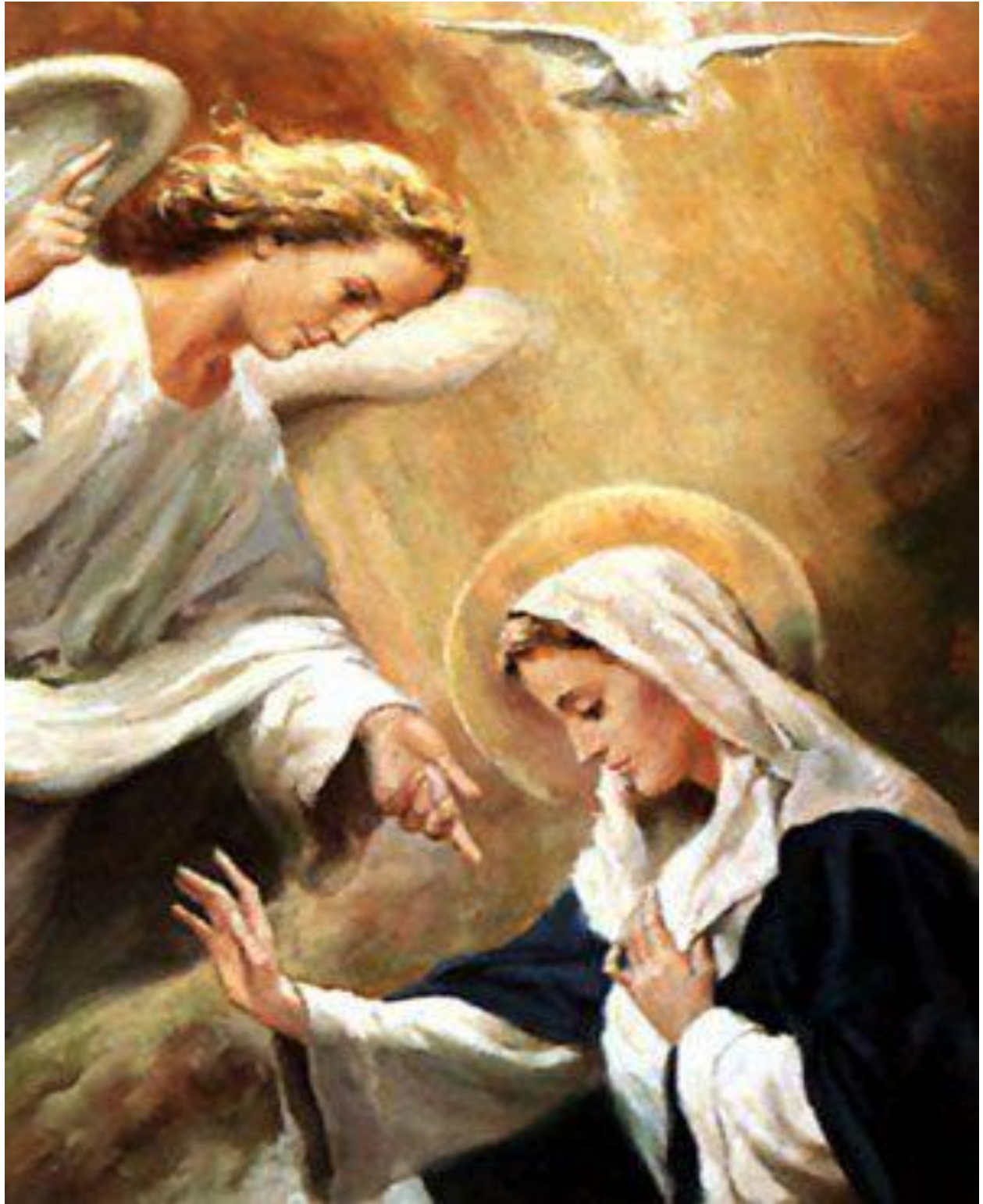
She was a sinner the same as we all are. As she received the Word of God by grace alone and not by her works so that Jesus was conceived in her womb, so we receive the Word of God by grace alone and not by our works so that Jesus comes to us with His forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Meditation on the Bible Story

The Son of God is conceived in Mary’s womb by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God spoken to her by the angel Gabriel. God’s choice of Mary was a choice of pure grace. She was a sinner the same as all women. She was, however, of the proper lineage of David to qualify as the mother of the Christ, but even this was a gift of God’s grace alone. As a woman her most important gift from God was the gift of her virginity. She had not had sexual intercourse with a man. The sinful seed of a man had not impregnated her. The Son of God would be conceived of Mary’s flesh, without sin, by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sanctified her flesh by the word of grace she received, so that the Son of God was fully human in every way, but without sin. Jesus the Christ is both true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary. He is the sinless Son of God in human flesh, David’s Son and David’s Lord, the promised Christ and fulfiller of all the Old Testament promises. He was conceived and born to be the unblemished Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world for us. In love God chose to give His Son to become man for us and to share in our flesh and blood. In love the Son freely took our sin upon Himself to suffer and to die. “Of His kingdom” of grace and salvation “there will be no end.” Mary received the Word of God and the Son of God was conceived in her womb.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your only-begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary to be our sinless Savior. As Mary received the Word of the Lord from the Angel Gabriel, so give us hearts to receive Your Word and to trust in Jesus who bore our sins in His own body for our forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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