



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Two

Pastor Jacob continued our series leading up to Christmas Eve. We are learning how to be the light while we look for the Light of the world to come. We heard the early stages of Mary's story when an angel announced that she would carry in her womb and give birth to the Savior of the world. She would carry the Light! With this announcement, we might think that the next logical step for Mary is to make some lists—to make some plans. That's what you do when you find out you're pregnant. You make plans. Instead, Mary marveled at the plans of God and said, "Let it be what you said, God."

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*Lord of Dreams and Visions,*

*With Mary, the mother of Jesus, I pray,  
"I am the Lord's servant,"  
"May your word to me be fulfilled."  
"Let it be what you said, God."*

*Amen*

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: LUKE 1.26-28

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,<sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

- Mary is having a life changing moment! The angel who has appeared to her (not an everyday event!) is about to turn her life upside down. He prepared her with these words. "You are highly favored." and "The Lord is with you." Whatever it was she had on her mind that day, instantly she

knew that she was seen by God. And that God was with her. Have you ever noticed God preparing you for a big turn of events?

- *Pray that, regardless of the road ahead, it will be enough for you to know that you are known by God and that God is with you.*

## **TUESDAY: LUKE 1.29-34**

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

<sup>34</sup> *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”*

- Even with the promises of God’s messenger, Mary is understandably alarmed. What she heard next she could not have been prepared for. There was no real precedence for pregnancy for a virgin. But the dream for that child was also bigger than anything she could have imagined. A kingdom that will never end. She responds with a question of disbelief. Who could blame her?
- *Pray for visions that are bigger than you can fathom. Hold your disbelief before God.*

## **WEDNESDAY: LUKE 1.35-38**

*The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”*

<sup>38</sup> *“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.*

- The answer to Mary’s disbelief might sound like a “churchy” answer to us. But it’s true. The Spirit of God can make unbelievable things happen. And, “No word from God will ever fail”. To this last response Mary resigns herself to a bigger plan for her life. Her statement of faith is a fancy way of saying, “Ok God, whatever you say... I am here for it.”
- *Pray these lines of Mary’s acceptance of God’s will. “I am your servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”*

## **THURSDAY: ISAIAH 55.8-9**

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”*

*declares the LORD.*

<sup>9</sup> *“As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

- Through the prophet Isaiah, God gives a reminder that our human way of thinking is not on the same plane as God’s. We have ideas because God made us to be creative, but God is the Creator

and we cannot know all that he knows. This might sound like a boast from God, but it is also a kindness to remind us that we can trust and rest in God's providence.

- *Pray for a steady spirit and mind as you give your thoughts and ways to God's.*

## **FRIDAY: ROMANS 8.28**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

- If you are living your life for Jesus, then by studying his life and praying for his spirit, you can begin to grasp the good works God is preparing for you. Like Mary, you are called according to his purposes. What is God calling you to? What good is God working in your life right now?
- *Pray for reminders of God's calling for you, and give thanks for the good that God is doing in you.*

## **SATURDAY: PSALM 18.30-33**

*As for God, his way is perfect:*

*The LORD's word is flawless;*

*he shields all who take refuge in him.*

<sup>31</sup>*For who is God besides the LORD?*

*And who is the Rock except our God?*

<sup>32</sup>*It is God who arms me with strength*

*and keeps my way secure.*

<sup>33</sup>*He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;*

*he causes me to stand on the heights.*

- Many of us spend a good portion of our lives hoping to discern a path forward. What is the way we should go? What will I stand on? Where do I find security? The Psalmist reminds us that the answer to each of these questions is God.
- *Pray for assurance that your strength, stability and security depend more on the God who can be trusted than on your own ability.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob said,

*“Mary says, I will take all I’m going to get rather than all I get to choose. And if you think that what you get in life is all that you choose, you are wrong. And when we do that, we choose a lesser life, a smaller life that is not all that God wants to do. Mary says, Let it be what you said, God. I’m waiting for a movement when a bunch of people say. Let it be what you said, God. We need a Mary movement. People who will hear what God is saying, accept the whole box, swallow hard and say ‘Let it be what you said, God. For my life. For my church. For this community.’”*

- Are there places in your life where you wonder if you are living all that God has for you?
- What plans are you sticking to that might actually be distracting you from God’s bigger vision and purpose?