



# LIFEGROUP

## RESOURCE GUIDE

for the week of December 4

### The Virgin's Son

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

— Luke 1:38 —

She never consented to this relationship.

Indeed, she would never have been consulted.

Her wishes, feelings, hopes,  
and aspirations were never considered.

She was simply chosen.

Chosen by Joseph;

And, more importantly, chosen by God...

Chosen by Joseph to be first a wife;

Chosen by God to be first a mother...

Before she would know

The life-giving embrace of her husband

Mary will experience the life-creating embrace of God.

She never consented to this relationship;

She had no choice but to surrender,

And surrender she did...

“I am the maidservant of the Lord.

Let it be to me according to your Word.”

And so it was...

But who could believe it?

A pregnant virgin?

Is this not an oxymoron?

Mary can be a virgin

Or Mary can be pregnant.

But Mary cannot be both!

The Virgin birth

Has stumbled reason for over 2000 years.

Both antiquity and modernity are incredulous...

Together they shout:

“Absurd! Preposterous! Impossible!”

And they would be right unless...

*Unless...*

Mary's public disgrace

Is truly and uniquely God's special favor.

*Unless...*

The seed planted in the virgin's womb

Is the same seed planted in the mind of Israel's prophets spanning more than 1500 years.

*Unless...*

The One to be born in nine months time to Mary

Has been creating life before there were sons of Adam and daughters of Eve.

*Unless...*

In Mary's baby God Himself

Is stooping down to step into the frailties of manhood.

*Unless...*

God is departing from the usual to accomplish the extraordinary...

Is the Virgin birth truly so unbelievable if

The One who creates Himself becomes the Creature;

The One in whom all things hold together;

The One by Whom and for Whom we were made;

The One whose face is the face of the invisible God;

The One who exemplifies all we were meant to be; and

The One who is like what we, by His grace, shall be.

In Mary's womb God Himself has become

Bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh,

Born a babe as we are born,

Living as a man as we must live,

Bearing the same infirmities and sorrows, and

Bowing his head to the same death we must die...

Beloved, it is here at the Virgin Birth that we stumble on the significance of this preposterous truth and behold the promise it offers:

There is no longer a great gulf

Fixed between God and people;

The humanity of Jesus has bridged it over.

We can no longer think that God sits on high,

Indifferent or irrelevant to the wants and woes

Of women, men, youth, and children.

The Virgin birth testifies that God has visited us—

He has come down to the lowliness of our estate

That we might enjoy the loftiness of His.

Born from Mary's womb

We behold Jesus, the Love of God,

That reaches out to the outcast

That invites the overlooked;

That befriends without prejudice;

That satisfies the hungry and satiates the thirsty;

The Love that will never leave, forsake, or  
Abandon any who welcomes His embrace.

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No longer need we lament that we can never participate in the moral glory and purity of God that comes from knowing Him personally.

Consider this: if God, in glory, can come down to His cherished, yet sinful creatures, is it not less difficult to bear those same creatures up that same way He came down?!

This is the mystery, beauty, and promise of the Virgin birth:

Conceived by the Holy Spirit;  
Born of the Virgin Mary...  
Nine months later  
The manger of Bethlehem was big with glory;  
And the world will have no other  
God than the one who once rested on Mary's lap.

*Will you?*

## Getting to know one another better...

What is your earliest memory of how you thought of the Virgin Mary?

## Matthew 1.26-38

*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. 36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

## Reflecting on Matthew 1.26-38...

This passage chronicles some amazing events. What words and phrases give you an idea of what this experience was like for Mary?

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The angel referred to Mary twice as "favored" by God (Luke 1:28, 30). The word is based on the Greek word for grace. What insight does that give you into why God chose Mary to give birth to Jesus?

What specific information does the angel Gabriel give to Mary about the son she would bear (Luke 1:31-33, 35)?

In what area of your life do you need to believe that "nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37)? What keeps you from fully trusting God in that area?

Mary's whole life was changed by her answer to the angel. Can you describe a time in your experience, or in the experience of someone you know, when your whole life's direction was changed by one event or decision?

Like Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary also hopes in God. She accepts Gabriel's message more readily than Zechariah did. Which would you find easier to believe—a promise from God through an angel or a promise through the Bible? Why?

My prayer requests...

Praying for my group...