

Scripture Passage: Luke 1: 26-38

Story Point: Do you know what today is? It is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflecting on the very first arrival or “advent” of Jesus, born as a baby in a stable in Bethlehem. It is also a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas as we consider the importance of Jesus entering the world in the form of a baby, and anticipate his return one day. During this season of the church calendar, each week of Advent focuses on a different theme - hope, peace, joy, and love. This week’s passage of Scripture focuses on the angel Gabriel coming to visit Mary and telling her of the miraculous things that were about to happen to her. At first, Mary was afraid, and Gabriel reassured her by telling her that she had found favor with God. He told her that even though she was a virgin, that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and she would have a baby boy. Her son would be special- he would be great and called “the Son of the Most High”. Gabriel told Mary that her relative, Elizabeth, would also have a son (even though she was very old). Gabriel assured Mary by saying, “nothing will be impossible with God.”

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Gabriel mentioned Elizabeth’s pregnancy to Mary?
- What kind of attitude did Mary have about the angel’s visit?
- What did Mary’s final statement to Gabriel show about her relationship with God? (1:38)
- What does the statement "with God, nothing is impossible" mean to you?
- There has always been a sense of anticipation around Christmas. The first Christmas was no different. What promises or hopes are you currently waiting for God to fulfill?
- Have you ever had to wait for something? A friend to come over for a playdate? Opening presents? How can we wait for the birth of our Lord with the same eagerness that we might wait for one of these things?

