

Encounter these verses today:
circle words that you identify with,
underline phrases or sentences you'd
like to remember, write questions about
the passage out to the side ...



The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26-38 :: (NIV84)

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

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have **found favor with God.** 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 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, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[c] the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For **nothing is impossible with God.**"

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "**May it be to me as you have said.**" Then the angel left her.



"LIFE: Choices & Consequences" | 12.02.12

"Greetings, you who are highly favored!"

The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:28 (NIV84)

What **decisions** in your life have brought positive **consequences** in return? Or challenges?

How does the game of LIFE **connect** with the story of Mary finding favor with God?

How can I seen as '**highly favored**' in God's eyes?



You can listen or share this sermon online!

Digging Deeper

[Use these readings to prepare you for worship next week!]

Monday: 12.03.2012

Prayer Focus: Families going thru difficult times

Passage: Luke 1

Insight: We read this chapter last week, we heard about it during Pastor Terry's message on Sunday. Let's review it again as we start our week and ask God to reveal something fresh and new.

Your life is no different than Mary or Joseph. The question for each of us is this: will we make the right decisions in order to follow God with obedience and passion? We might not raise the Son of God, but we can be a part of miracles if we do.

Tuesday: 12.04.2012

Prayer Focus: Our Church Leadership

Passage: John 3

Insight: One of the most beloved passages of scriptures is within our reading today. I believe that Nicodemus was confessing his belief in Jesus even though his faith in seeing him as Messiah was still falling short. Often we do the same thing ... we want to believe in God and Jesus but we live our lives separate from what that Truth means.

How can we live our lives today in a way that shows the world that our faith is real and legitimate? How can you yield to God's plan for your life in small ways and in big ways?

Wednesday: 12.05.2012

Prayer Focus: The Ministry of Upward Basketball

Passage: Matthew 2

Insight: This Sunday we will look at a new game to help us with the birth story of Jesus! The story we will be looking at is found in our reading today—the mysterious visit of the astrologers. Where were they from? When did they arrive? How did they put the pieces together that a King was being born by looking in the sky? So many questions and so few answers ... but isn't it fun to ask?

Thursday: 12.06.2012

Prayer Focus: Our Fusion Student Ministry (7-12 grade)

Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7

Insight: The Prophet Isaiah had the privilege of expressing some wonderful words about the salvation of God's people but it was coming at a time when God was really frustrated by their lack of faith and obedience. Our reading today is a moment when God pulls back the curtain and rays of hope shine down on the people.

If you were hearing this as the original audience, what would you be expecting God to do? How does this passage align itself with the actual arrival and life of Jesus?

Friday: 12.07.2012

Prayer Focus: Our Children's Ministry (baby - 6th gr)

Passage: Isaiah 11

Insight: Once again, Isaiah looks forward to a time when a member of Jesse's family (Jesse was the father of King David) would lead God's people. In a land of turmoil, this passage speaks of unimaginable peace—wolf laying with the lamb, the infant with the cobra, etc.

What do we find in Jesus' life that brings this kind of hope and peace? How does the arrival of Christ in your life influence your decisions, your perception, your goals, and your ambitions?



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