



Story Series – Part 2: Mary (Mother's Day)

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May 10, 2026

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **The Joy** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **You Keep Your Promises** (*Charity Gayle*)
- **Jesus Be The Name** (*Elevation Worship*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. Luke 1:13-56

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by thanking God and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share about a time when someone gave you news that seemed impossible to believe. How did you respond?

Sermon Overview

This week we explored the story of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and her extraordinary response to God's call on her life. Through her encounter with the angel Gabriel, we see a young woman who chose faith over fear, willingness over worry, and praise over complaint.

Main Points from the Sermon

1. Mary Chose to Believe

- Unlike Zechariah who doubted and was struck mute, Mary responded with faith when given an impossible promise.

2. Mary Was Willing

- "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." (Luke 1:38)

3. Mary Chose to Praise

- Even facing an uncertain and potentially scandalous situation, Mary's first response was worship and praise.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Understanding the Story

1. What stands out to you most about Mary's character in this passage?
2. Compare Zechariah's response (Luke 1:18-20) with Mary's response (Luke 1:38). What's the difference, and why does it matter?
3. Why do you think Mary immediately went to visit Elizabeth? What does this teach us about community and fellowship?

Personal Reflection

4. Mary asked "How can this happen?" but still chose to believe. When has God called you to something that seemed impossible? How did you respond?
5. Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant." What does true surrender look like in your life right now? What might God be asking you to surrender?
6. Mary praised God before seeing any results. What's the difference between praising God after He comes through versus praising Him in the midst of uncertainty?

Going Deeper

7. The angel told Mary, "For the word of God will never fail" (v. 37). How does this truth impact the way you approach God's promises in your own life?
8. Elizabeth encouraged Mary and affirmed God's work in her life. Who in your life needs that kind of encouragement right now? How can you be an "Elizabeth" to someone?

9. Read Mary's song of praise (verses 46-56). What does this reveal about her understanding of God's character?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- When God speaks, we have a choice: to believe or not to believe. Our response matters.
- Prophetic words can carry us. When we know we've heard from God, it changes everything about what we do next.
- We need community. Mary didn't process this alone—she went to Elizabeth, someone who could understand and encourage her.
- Praise is a choice. We can choose to praise God even when His plans seem wild, impossible, or uncomfortable.
- God's plans are good. Even when we don't understand, we can trust that God is big, powerful, knows all things, and has good plans for us.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

This Week's Challenge:

Option 1: Choose to Believe

- Identify one area where God has spoken to you but you've struggled to believe
- Write down the promise or direction you sense from God
- Each day this week, declare out loud: "I choose to believe what God has said"

Option 2: Practice Surrender

- Pray Mary's prayer daily: "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."
- Journal about what God might be asking you to surrender
- Take one concrete step of obedience in that area

Option 3: Cultivate Praise

- Before you see the answer, choose to praise God for who He is
- Write your own "song of praise" like Mary did (it doesn't have to rhyme!)
- Share it with someone who needs encouragement

Option 4: Be an Elizabeth

- Reach out to someone who might be facing something difficult or uncertain
- Encourage them with specific affirmation about how you see God working in their life
- Offer to pray with them or simply listen

Reflection & Prayer Requests

- What "impossible" thing might God be calling me to believe Him for?
- In what area of my life do I need to move from questioning to willingness?
- How can I develop a lifestyle of praise, even in uncertain circumstances?
- Who is my "Elizabeth"—someone older or wiser I can process life with?

Closing Prayer

Pray for one another:

- For faith to believe God's promises, even when they seem impossible
- For willingness to surrender to God's plans, even when they're uncomfortable
- For hearts that choose praise over complaint
- For meaningful connections with others who can encourage us in our faith journey
- For mothers in the group—that they would experience God's favor and presence

"Lord, like Mary, we want to be people who believe Your word, surrender to Your will, and praise You in all circumstances. Help us to trust that Your plans are good, even when we don't understand them. Give us faith to say, 'I am the Lord's servant. May everything You have said come true.' In Jesus' name, Amen."