

ADVENT (Coming)
Mary & Joseph: Saying Yes to God
Week 4 December 21, 2025
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If you heard God speak, and you knew it was God would you do what He asks of you?

Mary and Joseph found the courage to say, "Yes, Lord."

GOD'S CALL OFTEN COMES IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 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... For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."
Luke 1:26–38

God's messenger arrived in Mary's ordinary, predictable life with a world-changing message that would turn everything upside down.

GOD'S PLAN OFTEN COSTS US SOMETHING

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son

*of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **Matthew 1:18–25***

For Joseph, saying "yes" meant accepting the public misunderstanding and gossip that would come with Mary's pregnancy.

For Mary, saying "yes" meant risking everything — her relationship with Joseph, her standing in the community, her family's honor, and potentially her life.

Joseph and Mary show us that following God sometimes means choosing the more challenging path because it's the right path.

GOD'S PROMISES ARE WORTH THE RISK

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David... He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2:1–7

Both Mary and Joseph had to learn that God's timeline isn't always our timeline, and God's methods aren't always what we expect. But God's faithfulness is always certain.

Your willingness to say yes to God's calling can bring the presence of Jesus into your home, your workplace, your neighborhood, and your relationships.