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THE BIRTH OF JESUS

TRUTH ABOUT GOD///

God uses committed people to fulfill His purpose in the world.

SERIES AIM

God had a plan to save the world, and at times it seemed like He moved heaven and earth to make it a reality. Jesus was coming, and there would be one who would prepare the world for His arrival. Nothing can stand in the way of God's perfect will.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Luke 1:26-38; 46-55

LESSON BIG IDEA

I will commit my life to God so He can use me for His purpose.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?///

Mary was not called because she was extraordinary; she became extraordinary because she answered the call! Because Mary accepted this call and embraced her purpose, she helped make sure the entire world got a chance to hear the gospel.

God wants to use us to reach the world with the gospel as well! We may feel like we are just ordinary people and, therefore, not capable of doing great things for God. Perhaps we feel like because we are only junior or senior high students we don't have the maturity or influence we need to help spread the gospel. None of that is true, though. In fact, many Bible scholars believe Mary was about your age when she became pregnant with Jesus! If Mary could have that kind of impact on the world, so can you. Even though it will cost us to be used for Jesus' purpose, there is great reward in it. Do you want to be highly favored like Mary was? That is what Jesus wants for you.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ///

The following questions, devotions, and action points can be used any way that you feel comfortable. We suggest that you use a journal, your notes app on your phone, or even the spaces provided in this daily devotional book to take notes, write answers, and make lists. The purpose of this resource is simply to give you a space to interact with the Word of God and reflect on what you learn from that experience.

/// Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed to be a little strange?

/// Has He ever asked you to do something that was really hard? Maybe He asked you to forgive someone who hurt you or to choose mercy over revenge.

/// What was your response to Him? Did you respond like Mary or Zacharias?

/// If you had doubt, how did you overcome that?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE ///

COMMITTED TO HIS PURPOSE

☐ MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

Read Luke 1:28–31, 38.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

In this moment, Mary was given the greatest gift. She was young and no doubt afraid of what was to come, but through it all she remembered the words of the angel and trusted God fully. It is hard not to look at the similarities between Mary's pregnancy and the gift of the Holy Ghost. One moment we are like anyone else, and in the next, the Spirit of God is living inside of us. Few words can describe the importance of that infilling, but one thing is certain, it is an incredible responsibility. There are going to be times that we are going to feel afraid and not know what to do, but if we listen to the Spirit and remember the promises of God, then we can be certain that things are going to work out just as God intended.

Jr. High /// Write down your personal definition of fear and what you believe to be the best way to combat it.

Sr. High /// Are you excited or anxious about your future? Journal about ways you can find God's peace and strength to lead you.

☐ TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Read Isaiah 9:6.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Go ahead and read this verse over a couple of times. Let it sink in. A prophecy given predicting the birth of the Savior of the world, a plan that was put in place long ago, finally was coming to pass through this young woman named Mary. This passage sings of hope and expectation, something people held to for years. It was a verse they lived for in times of great despair. We should all have verses that: strengthen us when things get tough, verses we can rely on and remind ourselves of when the world around us is falling apart. In sin and darkness, the Word of God is our light and our salvation. Lean on the Word, learn to love it, read it every day, and find your reason to hope in the Lord.

Jr. High /// What is your favorite verse of Scripture? Why?

Sr. High /// Find three Bible verses that you feel are God's promise to you. Post them somewhere you will see every day.

COMMITTED TO HIS PURPOSE

☐ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Read Luke 1:46–48.

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Sometimes we feel pretty small when it comes to spiritual things. God is just so big; and at times we may feel insignificant. Maybe you've said, "What can I do? Why would God choose me to do something so important? Can I really handle all this responsibility that God has given me?" What you're feeling isn't a bad thing because the truth is that none of us are worthy of the great responsibility God puts on us. The beauty of it is that He will always help us to carry this responsibility. And when things go right, if we give Him all the glory, God will honor us with blessings like nothing we could ever imagine. Be like Mary today, and thank God for He has seen you and trusted you with great things.

Jr. High /// Turn up your favorite worship song and magnify the Lord.

Sr. High /// Find someone to entrust with the thing you think God is calling you to do.

☐ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

Read Luke 1:26–27.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

God works in mysterious and miraculous ways. Mary knew what was coming, but Joseph didn't have the slightest clue about what was in store. God has a way of doing incredible things in our lives, and for the people who know Him, they have some expectation and understanding of the way God operates. But for people on the outside, I'm sure it can be quite a wild ride. There is going to come a time when God does something incredible for you, and people around you are going to ask you about the miracle God performed. Whether or not they are fellow Christian believers, the goal is simple: share the testimony of God's incredible work in your life and encourage others that God has a miracle and a promise for them too. Use every blessing as an opportunity to glorify God and let others know that He exists and that He cares.

Jr. High /// Tell someone today something good God has done in your life.

Sr. High /// Craft a social media post that would encourage others to trust God with their futures.

COMMITTED TO HIS PURPOSE

☐ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

Read Luke 1:32–33.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Let's take a minute to appreciate this passage and everything it represents. God is so good, and in His wisdom, Jesus came to earth to do so much for a world that deserves so little. We are sinful, broken, depressed, hurting, and lost to sin and darkness. But in spite of all of that, Jesus is still great and glorified. He was powerful when He was here on earth, and He is just as powerful and loving now. No matter what we do or how far we run, He is God. Jesus reigns on His throne and has all power and authority. He loves us and wants the very best for us. That is just who He is. He is great, and we should praise Him for being so great!

Jr. High /// Put on your favorite worship song and think about God for the duration of the song.

Sr. High /// Put on some worship music. Think about the words and meditate on God for the next few minutes.

☐ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Read Romans 8:28.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Do you love God? Are you called by God to do something for His Kingdom? Well, right now, and for an unlimited time, God has decided to work out everything for your good, no questions asked. Got a prayer that needs answering? He is answering it! Feeling lonely and confused? He is working to help you find your identity! Pray today for your chance to be redeemed. Seems too good to be true, right? Well get this, all have sinned, and everyone falls short of God's perfection. But that statement and the passage above are both completely true and don't disqualify each other. You may not feel worthy right now, but God has a special plan for you. He loves you more deeply than anything in this universe. It is because of this love that He has chosen to bless you, no questions asked, just because He can.

Jr. High /// Write out some of the blessings that God has given you this year.

Sr. High /// List out some of the blessings that God has given you this year. Take some time to pray and thank Him for these things.

