

THE GOOD NEWS
BIBLE STUDY



THE ARRIVAL

LUKE 1:26 – LUKE 2:7

This study guide examines the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary, the significance of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the birth of John the Baptist, and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.



LUKE 1:26–56 SUMMARY

Gabriel's Announcement to Mary (1:26–38)

- **Key Points:**

- The angel Gabriel visits Mary in Nazareth with a divine message
- Mary is told she will conceive a son by the Holy Spirit
- This child will be called Jesus and will reign over Jacob's descendants forever
- Mary responds with faithful submission to God's will

Mary Visits Elizabeth (1:39–45)

- **Key Points:**

- Mary travels to visit her cousin, Elizabeth
- Elizabeth's baby leaps in her womb at Mary's greeting
- Elizabeth recognizes Mary as blessed and the mother of her Lord

Mary's Song of Praise (1:46–56)

- **Key Points:**

- Mary responds with a prophetic song (The Magnificat)
- She praises God for His mercy and faithfulness
- She acknowledges God's reversal of worldly values
- Mary remains with Elizabeth for three months





THNK ABOUT

- What does Gabriel's greeting to Mary reveal about her character and God's favor?
 - How does Mary's response to the angel's announcement serve as a model of faith and obedience for us today?
 - What can we learn from the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth about spiritual community?
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LUKE 1:57-80 SUMMARY

The Birth of John the Baptist (1:57-66)

- **Key Points:**
 - Elizabeth gives birth to a son, as the angel had promised
 - Neighbors and relatives celebrate with her
 - There is controversy over naming the child Zechariah
 - Zechariah confirms the name John in writing and immediately regains his speech

Zechariah's Prophecy (1:67-80)

- **Key Points:**
 - Zechariah is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies
 - He praises God for sending a Savior from the house of David
 - He prophesies about his son John's role as prophet and preparer of the Lord's way
 - John grows and becomes strong in spirit, living in the wilderness

THNK ABOUT

- Why was the naming of John so significant, and what does it teach us about God's promises?
- How does Zechariah's prophecy connect the Old Testament promises with the coming of Jesus?
- What does John's wilderness preparation teach us about spiritual readiness?





LUKE 2:1-7 SUMMARY

The Birth of Jesus (1-7)

- **Key Points:**
 - A census ordered by Caesar Augustus leads Joseph to bring Mary to Bethlehem.
 - Despite the great significance of the event, Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn.
 - The humble circumstances of Jesus' birth illustrate His identity as a servant and the fulfillment of prophecy regarding His coming.
 - Synoptic Reference: Matthew 1:18-21

THINK ABOUT

- **Significance of Bethlehem:** Why is the birthplace of Jesus important in terms of biblical prophecy?
- **Contrast in Circumstances:** What do we learn from the humble setting of Jesus' birth, and how does it contrast with the expectations of a king?
- **Personal Reflection:** How does understanding the birth of Jesus in this context deepen your appreciation for His mission?

LIFE APPLICATION

- **Faithful Response:** Like Mary, practice saying "yes" to God's calling even when it doesn't make sense
- **Joyful Celebration:** Like Elizabeth and Mary, find spiritual companions who celebrate God's work in your life
- **Prophetic Awareness:** Like Zechariah, recognize and proclaim how God is fulfilling His promises
- **Humble Acceptance:** Embrace the ways God works through simple, unexpected means in your life



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4



CONCLUSION

The announcement and birth narratives reveal God's meticulous planning and profound humility in bringing salvation to the world. Through an ordinary young woman, a faithful priest's family, and a humble birth in Bethlehem, God demonstrates that His kingdom operates on values different from worldly expectations. These stories invite us to respond with Mary's faith, Elizabeth's recognition, Zechariah's proclamation, and the humble acceptance that the Savior arrives in our midst in unexpected ways.

