

Life-Sharing Lesson 1 “We’ve Got Joy For You” —The Joy Of The Lord Luke 1:26-45

1. What was an event in your life that brought you great joy?

Luke 1:26-45

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, 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 conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him 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 on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] 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 unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me according to your word.” Then the angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

2. What joy do you think God may have felt in sending the angel Gabriel to Mary?

3. Why does the passage describe Joseph in the way that it does?

4. If an angel told you that you were highly favored by God, what would that mean to you and what would you expect to happen?

5. Why do you think Mary was troubled by the angel's words?

6. How do you think the angel felt as he was telling Mary about the birth of Jesus, and what kind of expression do you think was on the angel's face?

7. What is the importance of Mary declaring that she is a virgin?

8. How convinced are you on a scale of 1 to 10 that Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit?

9. How convinced are you on a scale of 1 to 10 that verse 37, "For no word from God will ever fail." is actually true?

10. Have you ever had a word from God that seemed as though it failed?

11. What will be some of the negative consequences of Mary's joy to be the Lord's servant in verse 38?

12. Have you ever had great joy in saying yes to the Lord to use you, only to have some pain or heartache come out of your obedience?

13. Why do you think Mary goes to Elizabeth with the news first, instead of going to tell Joseph?

14. How important is it for us to share our joy with the right person?

Life-Sharing Lesson 2 “We’ve Got Joy For You” The Joy Of The Angels Luke 2:4-21

1. When was the last time something really scared you?

Luke 2:4-20 Today's New International Version (TNIV)

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and

pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

2. Why do you think God sends the angels to the shepherds, instead of to the people who had filled the inn?

3. What do you think the glory of the Lord shining around the shepherds actually looked like?

4. If you had of been a rough, cussing, shepherd that night, what do you think would have been going through your mind when the angel showed up?

5. What do you think was the tone of the angel's voice when he made the announcement to the shepherds?

6. If you had of been there, would the appearance of the great company of the heavenly host made you more afraid or more relaxed?

7. Do you think any of the shepherds were more tempted to go and tell others about their experience than they were to go and first see the baby?

8. Are we ever tempted to be satisfied with just a religious experience as opposed to taking the time to really go and get to know Jesus? If so why?

9. Why is the arrival of Jesus on earth, such a big deal in heaven?

10. What price were the shepherds willing to pay to go and see Jesus?

11. What are the things that will keep us from getting to see Jesus this Christmas?

12. The joy of the angels, was transferred to the joy of the shepherds. The shepherds, after seeing Jesus, went and became evangelists. What is an evangelist. Why should a run in with Jesus, produce a desire within us to become evangelist?

13. How can we avoid losing our joy over the birth of our Savior during the holiday season?

14. What one thing will you do this holiday season to make it joyful for those with whom you live, will visit, or will come into contact with through the end of this year.