

Week 3: Joy

Mary's Story

My name is Mary. You have probably heard of me, and I'm sure you've heard of my son, Jesus. Today I want to tell you about the time I found out I was going to be Jesus' mother. I was engaged to Joseph, but we weren't married yet. I was still living in my father's house in Nazareth. One day an angel visited me. Can you believe that? I wasn't sure what an angel would want with me.

The angel told me his name was Gabriel. I must have looked as frightened as I felt when he appeared because his first words to me were, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you." Then Gabriel told me I was going to have a baby. A baby? I was sure I had heard incorrectly. But Gabriel said the baby was going to be God's Son, and I was to name him Jesus. Gabriel told me he would grow up to do many great things.

As you can imagine, I was still feeling confused by this important and surprising news. Gabriel told me God would be with me and reminded me that nothing is impossible for God. Then the angel told me my relative, Elizabeth, was also pregnant. This was amazing news because Elizabeth was old and had wanted to have a child for many years, but she had never been pregnant.

What could I say? The news that I was going to have a baby was not what I expected, but I knew I trusted God. I told Gabriel I would do whatever God had planned for me. Then Gabriel left.

(Based on Luke 1:26-38, 46-47.)

