

# Session 5 - Mary

## Luke 1

### Intro

For the last few weeks, we have been looking at the 5 women in Jesus' family tree.

*(This is how we have summarised our sessions but you may summarise the differently or have other crafts you have done)*

*We looked at Tamar and saw how our lives might be broken but that doesn't mean we are worthless. We made Mosaics to reflect that.*

*We then looked at the life of Rahab and how our past and identity doesn't define us. We were able to weave baskets with newspaper to see that God weaves our story into his plan, however broken it is.*

*We then looked at the life of Ruth and saw how there are good things in our lives that we can be thankful for. We made some paper beads and Jewellery making out of junk mail.*

*Last week we looked at the life Bathsheba. God brought her into a place where she was deeply valued. We also talked about how even though our situation changes and God does restore us, that doesn't mean that we don't carry scars, hurt or pain. But we saw that there was hope in her life despite that and we made our own paper.*

This week we are going to be looking at the life of Mary, Jesus' mother and thinking about God's wider plan for us all. I am sure everyone has heard of Mary, mostly at Christmas but we are going to look at some of the truths of her story that perhaps people forget.

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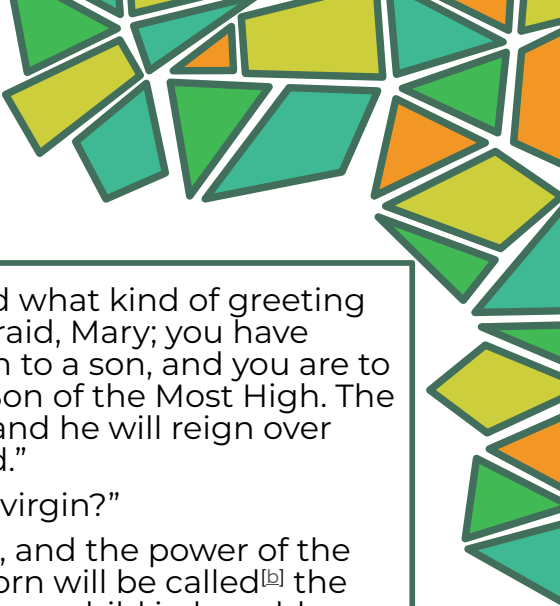
## Craft Time

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### Part 1

So, Mary is in the New Testament, the second half of the Bible. All the other women we have looked at have been in the Old Testament. I think most have heard some part of this story because of Christmas. But, if you haven't heard Mary's story before, that's okay, you are coming with fresh eyes!

Mary is a normal Jewish young girl. It is suggested she was very young, about 16 and some people say she might have been as young as 13 or 14. In those days, when you were engaged to someone to be married it was like being married. You didn't live together and weren't married but if you wanted to get out of the engagement, it would be like getting a divorce. It was a bit more of a definite commitment to be engaged then than it is now. Mary was engaged to Joseph. And this is the position she is in when God sends an angel (Gabriel) to talk to her.



<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> 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<sup>[b]</sup> the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**Luke 1: 29-38**

Mary is a teenager, unmarried and would be aware of the consequences of what this situation would mean for her. (*Adulterous women would be in danger – stoning*).

## Discussion Questions

▶ How do you think Mary felt?

▶ Why do you think she agreed to carry the Son of God?

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## Craft Time

### Part 2

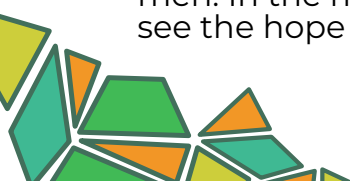
Mary actually does more than just agree, she sings a song of praise after she visits her cousin Elizabeth, who confirms what God said to be true. She is so thankful to the Lord for all he has done. Even though she knows the consequences of her situation, she reacts like this.

So, this had happened and you can imagine what Joseph must be thinking. What is lovely about this story is how good a man Joseph is. He doesn’t want Mary to be publicly disgraced so he plans to divorce her quietly. But then he gets a dream from God where God tells him that all Mary has said is true. So, Joseph takes Mary home as his wife and doesn’t sleep with her until after the baby is born.

Now we know that Jesus is born - as we find at Christmas - but something that isn’t talked about so much is that Herod, the King, heard that there was a new king being born. He felt his throne was under threat so he basically caused a mass genocide and killed all boy babies under 2.

Mary and her family had to flee; they were in danger. Since Mary agreed to what the Lord asked of her, she has been under threat of public disgrace, stoning and having her child murdered.

But we also know that at the birth people came to see Jesus, shepherds and wise men. In the midst of all this difficulty, I’m sure Mary can see God at work and can see the hope that Jesus was sent for.





## Discussion Questions

- ▶ **Do you think Mary ever wondered what was going to happen? What the little baby's purpose was?**
- ▶ **Have you ever been in a hard situation but have seen or felt hope in it? (whether that is something that someone has said or something that happened)**

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## Craft Time

### Part 3

Mary isn't mentioned a lot in the Bible. I think that is mostly because she was a normal Jewish mother. A godly and obedient follower of God. The few times she is mentioned, often Jesus is doing something that his family don't expect.

I don't know if anybody knows a lot about Jesus' life but what he had to say was quite radical for the time and it put him in some difficult situations. He was even stoned at one point.

I imagine that Mary knew of this and witnessed a lot of it. I know she will have believed what was told to her many years ago and that he was the Son of God and was here for a reason. Her hope would have been in him. But that didn't mean she wouldn't have struggled seeing her son treated in the way he was.

You may have heard before about when Jesus died on the cross, that is what is celebrated at Easter. The Bible says that Mary was there when Jesus died. The baby she knew was the Son of God and whom she had raised, fled for, followed and believed was now dying in front of her eyes.

## Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What was going through Mary's mind at the time?**
- ▶ **Do you think there is hope in her story?**  
*Could talk about how Jesus' mission is for all and how he is Mary's hope and can be our future hope. The same God who restored all these women is the same God who came as a baby to sacrifice himself for us to be made right with God.*  
*Light of the world and link to craft (possibly candle-making)*

## Concluding the last 5 sessions

- ▶ **Have the stories we have looked at impacted you in any way?**
  - ▶ **Has your view of God changed in any way?**
  - ▶ **Has your view of yourself, or your future, changed in any way?**
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