



# The Faith of Mary

— Ages 14 and up edition —

## Set Up:

Prepare your item(s) and plan to walk through this after dinner. This should take you and your family no more than 15 minutes. If possible we recommend that you print off this document so that you are free from technology. If you must have it on your device, turn on airplane mode or do not disturb to limit distractions

## Item:

A Bible and a Mirror. Either taken off the wall or one you can stand in front of. Avoid using bathroom mirrors.

**Scripture:** — *Look into the mirror for 10 seconds* —

Take turns reading: **Luke 1:26-29** — **Luke 1:30-33** — **Luke 1:34-38**

**Read:** — *Look into the mirror for 30 seconds* —

Imagine yourself at 15, maybe younger. You still live at home but are engaged to be married. You're minding your own business, making dinner or something, when an other-worldly person-thing comes and tells you, "Hey, God is with you." WHAT on earth is happening? You're completely taken off guard. Then the thing says, "Do not be afraid Mary, (he knows your name too!), God is with you and you will have a baby who you'll name Jesus and he will be king over all people." What is going on here?

The first thing that comes to mind is the impossibility of you being pregnant. You know how it works and you tell the thing, "Nope... cant'... I won't be married for at least a few months or even years". The Angel's reply? "God is going to make you pregnant, you're going to give birth to his son. You have found favour with God"

Having an affair, which is what people will think you did if they find you pregnant, is cause for you to be stoned (rocks being thrown at you until you die... SCARY!). So if God is going to get you pregnant and, as a result, you'll be pelted with rocks. How is that favour...?

The angel says, "Your aunt, Elizabeth is pregnant. Nothing is impossible with God." Something clicks in that moment and you go from fear to wonder to trust: surrender. Yes, I will do this, I will trust God with my life. Mary was a teenager when she was given the role of being Jesus' mother. She surrendered herself and trusted in what the angel told her. In doing so nothing would be the same.

**Wonder:** — *Look into the mirror for 30 seconds* —

Share your first reaction of a time when something took you off guard or surprised you in a big way? Share what you would do if you were in Mary's shoes? Would you faint or think that you are hallucinating? Maybe laugh? Share of a time when you said "no" to a direction God wanted to take you.

Mary's faith had consequences. Share what you think God might be asking you to step out in faith that could have some consequences. Take a look at the mirror again, do you trust God with your life?

## Pray:

Confess and surrender times when you haven't taken God at his word and stepped out in faith.

Thank God for when he has intervened in your life, moved you to growth or made changes you wouldn't have made yourself. Thank him for being involved like a loving Father.

**A song to extend the moment: The Earth Stood Still — Future of Forestry**