



Question:
What do you really know about Mary?

Here's what we know

- Mary was engaged to Joseph and found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18
Luke 1:35
- Mary was a virgin. Matthew 1:23,25
Luke 1:26
- Angel Gabriel announced to Mary in Nazareth that she would have a son, and his name would be Jesus. Luke 1:26–31
- Elizabeth (Mother of John the Baptist) was related to Mary. Luke 1:36
- After the angel's visit, Mary went to visit Elizabeth and stayed for three months. Luke 1:39–40
Luke 1:56
- Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Joseph to register for the census. Luke 2:5
- In Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Luke 2:6–7
- Shepherds visited Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Luke 2:16
- Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and offer a sacrifice. Luke 2:22
- While at the temple, they met Simeon who had been waiting to see the Messiah. Luke 2:25–32
- Simeon prophesied concerning Mary and Jesus. Luke 2:33–35

- Still at the temple, Mary and Joseph met a prophetess named Anna who spoke about Jesus. Luke 2:36
- Mary, Joseph, and Jesus returned to Nazareth. Luke 2:39
- After the visit of the wise men, Mary, Joseph and Jesus fled to Egypt to escape Herod. Matthew 2:13
- Mary, Joseph and Jesus left Egypt and returned to Nazareth. Matthew 2:19–23
- Every year Mary, Joseph and Jesus returned to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Luke 2:41
- When Jesus was 12 years old, Mary, Joseph and Jesus were returning from the Passover in Jerusalem. Jesus was lost. His parents found him in the temple. Luke 2:42–52
- Mary was present at Jesus' crucifixion. John 19:26
- Mary was in the Upper Room with the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Acts 1:14

How the story of Mary developed through the years

Roman Catholic Doctrine	Officially Defined	Asserts
Perpetual Virginity	4 th century	“before, during, and after giving birth”
Mother of God	Council of Ephesus in 431 AD	The mother of God the Son (Jesus)
Immaculate Conception	Pope Pius IX (1854)	Mary was preserved immaculate from Original Sin
Assumption of Mary	Pope Pius XII (1950)	“assumed body and soul into heavenly glory”

The Annunciation Story

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end . . ."

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true." And then the angel disappeared. Luke 1:26–33 (NIV), 38 (TLB)

What can we learn from Mary as we step out in faith to follow God's plan for our lives?

1. Following God's plan for your life always involves _____.

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever God wants. May everything you said come true." Luke 1:38 (TLB)

2. God will use those who have the courage to _____.

Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I'm a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God shall overshadow you . . . For every promise from God shall surely come true." Luke 1:34,35,37 (TLB)

How can you, like Mary, trust God in spite of your fear? Know this:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified . . . for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)