

(A) THE PASSAGE

Luke 1 v26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(B) THE QUESTIONS

GOD WITH US **Luke 1 v26-38**

1. JESUS IS GOD

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

Q1: How does the virgin birth support the divine identity of Jesus?

2. JESUS IS WITH US

2.1 A HUMBLE KING

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Q2: Why did Jesus choose to come in such humble circumstances?

2.2 A SAVIOUR KING

31 and you shall call his name Jesus.

Q3: How does the name “Jesus” challenge the notion that Jesus was just a “great teacher”?

2.3 A HISTORIC KING

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

Q4: Why is it important that Jesus was of the line of David?

2.4 A DIVINE KING

33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever,

Q5: What is the significance of the “house of Jacob”?

2.5 AN ETERNAL KING

33 and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Q6: How does this affect our view of eternity?

3. WHAT ABOUT US? A RIGHT RESPONSE

3.1 NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Q7: What things in your life do you fear are “impossible with God”?

3.2 I AM THE LORD’S SERVANT

38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Q8: How are you going to be “the servant of the Lord” in the challenges and opportunities you are facing in the future?

A PRAYER

Loving Lord, thank you that your Son Jesus Christ came to me – God with us. Thank you for the miracle of the virgin birth and all the wonderful aspects of his kingly reign. Thank that he is a Humble King – help me to humble myself before him. Thank you that he is a Saviour King and came to save me from my sins.

If I have not ever done so before, I now commit my life to him in full surrender. If I have doubted and wandered, I come back to him now.

Thank you that he is a historic King – and all promises were fulfilled in him. Thank you he is a Divine King and that I am now through faith part of Jacob’s line. Thank you that he is an Eternal King – and with him, I shall live forever. Help me through faith recognise that with God “nothing will be impossible”. Teach me this advent what it truly means to say and live the words “I am the Lord’s servant”, and live daily the reality of “God with us”, for the sake of your Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ and in the power of your Holy Spirit, **Amen.**