

# “HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN” ADVENT (WEEK 1)

## YOUTH – 6TH - 12TH GRADES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 1:26-38

### BEGINNING PRAYER ACTIVITY

Connecting with the story:

A young woman, a teenager really, is told she is going to have God’s baby. Right! What teenager do you know who would be a likely candidate for this task? And the message comes via an angel named Gabriel no less. Are you kidding me? What would this young woman be thinking? Finding out something like this would be more than most people could handle, but Mary did it! No doubt she had to pray for courage and understanding along the way! Take a moment and gather together with your family or friends who are with you. Say the following prayer: “God who speaks to the young and the old, thank you for the gift of your son in this world. Thank you for using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Help us to feel your presence when life feels terrifying and confusing”. Amen!



### BIBLE READING

You will need a Bible – whatever one you have floating around your house is fine. Or, you can use Biblegateway.com (use the NRSV or CEB translations) or a Bible app (search NRSV Bible in your app store).

**Read (Luke 1:26-38) or watch this video link!**

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/6W9Dm0IBOzC](https://youtu.be/6W9Dm0IBOzC)

## THINK ABOUT IT

The choice of Mary to bear God's son seems so unlikely. She is everything that you might not expect: young, poor, from an unremarkable village. Do you know of any contemporary leaders who have come from obscurity to prominence? Have you ever been in a situation where you received attention that you didn't know how to handle? I can only imagine the attention Mary received after this encounter and I'm sure she did the very best she could under the circumstances. **Think About It...** Many teenage parents do a pretty good job of parenting, most teenage moms and dads need a lot of support for this new role. Do you know what organizations in your community provide the support needed? How can you or your family help? We have heard this story of the Annunciation so often that we don't really listen to the details, assuming that we already know the story well. Take a moment to sit with [Luke 1:26-38](#), noting the details from the dating of the story to Mary's decision. How long do you think Gabriel waited between verses 37 and 38? What do you think went through Mary's mind? What would it mean to you to know that you are a "favored one" of God? Do you know God's favor isn't just for a chosen few but it's extended to everyone? He does not discriminate or show favoritism! We are all loved equally by Him. Gabriel told Mary "Nothing will be impossible with God." Do you believe this statement? Why or why not? During this Advent week, spend time each day thinking about Mary and her willingness to put herself in God's hands. What does that feel like to you? During this crazy world we're living in, it helps to know that we are not alone and that God is with us!

## CONCLUDING SONG

<https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE>

## CHALLENGE WEEK 1!

Let's get started and finish this week's challenge to have your name entered into a monthly prize drawing!

Do the below word search and/or coloring page, then email or text a copy of it to Pastor Chrissy or Joseph!

Email: [chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org) or [joseph.burrel@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:joseph.burrel@kalamazoofirstpres.org)

Or text to Pastor Chrissy at 989-854-1124



# An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:26-38



K V G J E U J H T U Z G T J N  
 X I Y K V V V Z S H N U B K J  
 P D N W U E J N F O R M O O B  
 C J K G L L I O W N N O R S D  
 H B E E D G X E S N R O N Z B  
 I C G S R O F V B E M W D E I  
 H N L I U P M I I B P A V Q B  
 A Q V B I S H L R M W H R L A  
 Z Z J P J P L X T C D Q W Y G  
 D F H H D P F P H N A C I K A  
 A D A F R A I D W N V X K N B  
 E B W Q K U P O V X I J X Y R  
 Q G P L T C T L R X D L F H I  
 E L I Z A B E T H Q B O C Y E  
 Y K C N P O S T D N F E E O L

ELIZABETH	JESUS	JOSEPH	BORN	AFRAID
SON	KINGDOM	DAVID	GABRIEL	BIRTH
MARY	TOWN	ANGEL	THRONE	VIRGIN

