

# GROWING IN FAITH



## Rumors!

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

-Luke 1:26-38

## GOING DEEPER

In Isaiah 7:14 we read, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

This was written almost 800 years before the birth of Christ. What kind of anticipation do you think this created within the people of Israel?

There are a few passages in Isaiah that pointed towards the birth of Christ...

What type of savior were the Israelites wanting?

What do you think the purpose was for sharing this news so long before the actual birth of Christ?

Imagine, today, an engaged young lady told that she was pregnant, not by her fiancé...

Even with an Angel of the Lord telling her not to be afraid, what emotions might she be having?

What if this was your daughter, or your son's betrothed?

Ultimately, Mary understands that she is going to be used by God, and this will be His son...

What feelings of anticipation would you have, knowing that God has chosen you to accomplish something so grand?

As we continue this journey in Advent ...

Who do you need to share God's love with?

What can you do to build anticipation of the coming birth of Christ?