

DECEMBER 2021

Word for Women

The Women of Jesus' Family Tree Part 5/5 — MARY

WEEK 1

Day 1 – Matthew 1:1-17

Reread the genealogy of Christ one last time. Note every woman whose name is mentioned. If you've been with us this whole study, consider Mary's story. Ask God to be with you as you learn about Mary and for Him to reveal His character to you afresh.

Day 2 – Luke 1:5-56

Today we are reading about the foretelling of two babies, John and Jesus, and the response of their parents, namely, Zechariah and Mary. We'll return to this passage all week, so for today, focus on reading the text and make notes of repeated phrases/ideas.

Day 3 – Luke 1:5-56

Before you reread this text today, grab a sheet of paper. On one side, write "Zechariah" and on the other side, write "Mary." Make a list of all the text tells you about each character. How are they described? Who visits them? How do these visits compare? How do they respond? We'll come back to this list tomorrow.

Day 4 – Luke 1:5-56

Reread our text once again and consider the list you made yesterday. Did you notice Mary's response to the angel versus Zechariah's response? Zechariah responds by asking the angel "How will I know this?" Mary responds saying, "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your Word." What do these responses reveal about their obedience to God? What do they reveal about their belief in what God can do?

Day 5 – Luke 1:46-55

Sometimes God asks us to do difficult things. Mary is young and in a dangerous situation as a pregnant, unmarried woman. Yet she responds to God not only in wanting His will over her own, but also in praise. How can you respond to what God has called you to do out of obedience and praise? How can you delight in God working through you even when it feels impossibly hard?

WEEK 2

Day 1 – Luke 1:46-55

We are back in Mary's song again today. Read it again but pay close attention to the final two verses. Who all is Mary singing about? What is she saying here?

Day 2 – Genesis 3:1-24

Here we are, back at the fall of mankind in (almost) the very beginning! Read this passage and note as you do who the characters are, how they are cursed, and any promises God makes to them. Ask God to reveal to you His character and heart for rescuing humanity from the beginning.

Day 3 – Genesis 3:1-24

Focus today on what the Lord says to the serpent in verse 15. This is the first Messianic prophecy we see in Scripture; the first promise of One who will crush the head of the serpent. Thank God today for promising from the beginning of mankind's fall to rescue us from our separation from Him.

Day 4 – Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-23, Luke 1:31-35

There are many prophecies in the Old Testament about a Messiah, but one important one is found in Isaiah 7:14. What does it say? How do these two passages about Mary fulfill this prophecy? Why do you think prophecy matters?

Day 5 – Genesis 3:1-24, Isaiah 7:14

When we look at Genesis 3 and Isaiah 7:14 and see how Jesus is the fulfillment of what God promised, why should that matter to us? Prophecies fulfilled in Christ show us that God has always been working toward His rescue plan of salvation and that He keeps His promises. Thank Him for that as we close this week.

WEEK 3

Day 1

There are more passages about Mary in the Word, but through Mary, we have been given Jesus, and this week we will focus on Him. Our goal is to learn about God's character through Mary's story, and this detour is an important one to make. As we look at fulfilled prophecy of Christ all week, ask God to show you how He keeps His promises. Ask Him to grow your trust and belief in Him in the days to come.

Day 2 – Genesis 22:1-18, John 3:16, Hebrews 11:17-19

In this text, what prophecy do we see about Christ? How is it fulfilled? Christ willingly sacrificed Himself for your sins. How does knowing that change how you live every day?

Day 3 – Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 26:14-15, Matthew 27:3, Matthew 27:9-10

What does the prophecy in Zechariah teach you about Jesus? What happened that fulfilled this prophecy? Praise God for giving us a Word with such specific details to help us discern that Jesus is Lord.

Day 4 – Psalm 118:22-24, Mark 12:10-11, Acts 4:9-12, Ephesians 2:20, 1 Peter 2:6-8

What prophecy about the Messiah is given in Psalm 118? How is it fulfilled in the Scriptures? Many rejected Christ and many more will, but you have not! Praise God! Thank Him for your salvation and ask Him to reveal to you people to whom you can share the good news of Jesus.

Day 5 – Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Matthew 8:16-17, Matthew 20:28, Matthew 26:28, Matthew 27:59-60, Mark 10:45, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20, John 12:37-38, Acts 8:32-35, Romans 10:16, Hebrews 9:28, 1 Peter 2:21-25

What is the prophecy in Isaiah 52? How do we see it fulfilled in these passages? Jesus bore our sins and suffered in our place. Do you believe that? Have you thanked Him for that today?



WOMEN'S MINISTRY
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WEEK 4

Day 1 – Luke 1:38

We are revisiting Mary today and her words here in this passage, "I am a servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." Mary had a willing heart to obey God. You were asked week one how you could respond to God's promptings in your life with obedience and praise. Does seeing how God fulfills His promises and how Jesus was obedient to the cross challenge you to obey God even more? Journal your thoughts today.

Day 2 – Genesis 38, Joshua 2:1-24

Today we reread the stories of Tamar and Rahab. Consider how they could have responded to their hard situations like Zechariah in Luke 1:18 but did not. Note how their obedience to God moved the line of Christ forward.

Day 3 – Ruth 1-4, 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Today we reread the stories of Ruth and who would be her granddaughter-in-law Bathsheba. Again, consider how they could have responded to their hard situations like Zechariah in Luke 1:18 but did not. Note how their obedience to God moved the line of Christ forward.

Day 4 – Luke 1:41-45

This passage is beautiful. In it we see Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesying over Mary. Elizabeth says, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." Mary believed. She believed in God. Why? We know from her song that she knew Scripture and that she knew God would remember His promises (Luke 1:54-55). So, when she believed God, she believed in His capacity as a Promise-Keeper. She also believed she was a part of that promise. Praise God today for Mary's belief. Ask Him to help you believe more boldly in His promises.

Day 5 – Romans 8:1-2

God has kept all His promises. His Son came through the womb of the woman and conquered death. In Him we have victory. We are free from the law of sin and death because of Christ. Like Mary, we get to look at the Word of God and ask, "Is God faithful?" "Does He keep His promises?" Like Mary, I hope you believe that "Yes, He does!" I hope you believe with all your heart that God has fulfilled His covenant in Christ and that in Him you are a new creation.