

December 10 | Sunday
Advent: Surprised by Joy
Read [Luke 1:26-55](#)



11 | Mon – Too good to be true | Read [Luke 1:5-20](#)

How would you react if you were suddenly told a request you'd been praying over for years was about to be answered? Instead of being thrilled at the angel's message, Zechariah seems skeptical. Was it because in the long years of God's silence hope had faded? Was it because of his focus on the impossibility of their situation that he could not see God's ability to do the impossible? Don't let God's apparent silence rob you of hope. He who promised is faithful and will accomplish His purposes in your life.

12 | Tue – Waiting | Read [Luke 1:21-25](#)

Imagine the joy Elizabeth experienced when she became pregnant in her old age. Yet she freely acknowledged that it was the LORD'S doing. Is it possible that a hope deferred actually brings greater joy than if a request is answered quickly? Have you ever experienced a prayer being answered in such a way that you, and others, knew it was totally God's doing?

13 | Wed – But I had plans! | Read [Luke 1:26-38](#)

It is easy to focus on the way things *should* happen. Mary's life was moving along in an orderly way. She was engaged to a good man, looking forward to being a wife and eventually a mother. Then she had a visitor and that conversation turned her life upside down. Mary could have said "no" to the angel's proclamation. Think about what must have happened in Mary's mind and heart between her first response of "How can this be?!" and her final words, "Let it be with me just as you have said." Are you willing for what God wants to do in your life?

14 | Thu – The source | Read [Luke 1:39-45](#)

Two women and two impossible situations. A barren woman having a child when she was too old and a young woman who had protected her virginity yet is now pregnant. They had one thing in common; it was their trust in God's ability to fulfill His promises. Was that the true source of their joy? Where does your joy come from?

15 | Fri – Look at the Giver | Read [Luke 1:46-55](#)

This famous song of Mary provides a peek into her heart, her relationship with God, and her trust in His character. It is true that happiness will ebb and flow with the ups and downs of life but real joy is not based on circumstances. It is based on belief. Mary expresses her joy in God her Savior and then proceeds to list all the reasons why God was worthy to be worshipped. How do you combat the challenges of life that threaten to steal your joy?

16 | Sat – Promises | Read [Luke 1:57-75](#)

During the long months of being mute, Zechariah had time to reflect on his initial disbelief. Something amazing must have happened in his heart and mind as he processed the words the angel had spoken to him. When his silence was broken, the words poured out as a powerful testament to the God he worshipped and served. Imagine the joy of a miracle child, combined with the understanding of that son's destiny; the results was great awe at the incredible and creative ways God keeps His promise. What promises are you holding on to?