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God's Choice

Key References: Luke 1:26-56; *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 10, p. 98; chap. 15, p. 145; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 13-17; Our Beliefs, nos. 5, 4, 11



powertext

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).



We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.

Think of a time you were chosen for something special. How did you feel? Today in our lesson God sends an angel to tell Mary that He has chosen her above all others to be the mother of His Son. Think of how Mary must have felt when the angel appeared to her and how she responded to the angel's message.

Mary was working inside, enjoying the coolness. It was so hot outside in the middle of the day. As she worked she thought about Joseph. He was so loving and kind, just the kind of husband she had always dreamed of. She remembered when they announced their engagement. Everyone was so pleased. Now there was so much to do getting ready for the wedding.

Suddenly she became aware of someone in the room. A beautiful angel was there with her, walking toward her. Mary was afraid. She began to tremble. Her mouth was dry. She was not able to say a word. She just looked in speechless amazement.

Coming over to her, the angel said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary sank to her knees. She was in shock. What did this all mean? What could an angel have to tell a young girl like her?

The angel continued, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

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Sunday

READ Read 1 Peter 2:9 and this week's story, "God's Choice."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Peter 2:9.

PRAY Thank God that He has chosen you.

Monday

READ Read Luke 1:26-34.

WRITE Think of the angel's news to Mary. In your Bible study journal, thank God for choosing you.

PRAY Ask God to help you accept His calling so that you can fulfill the work for which He has chosen you.

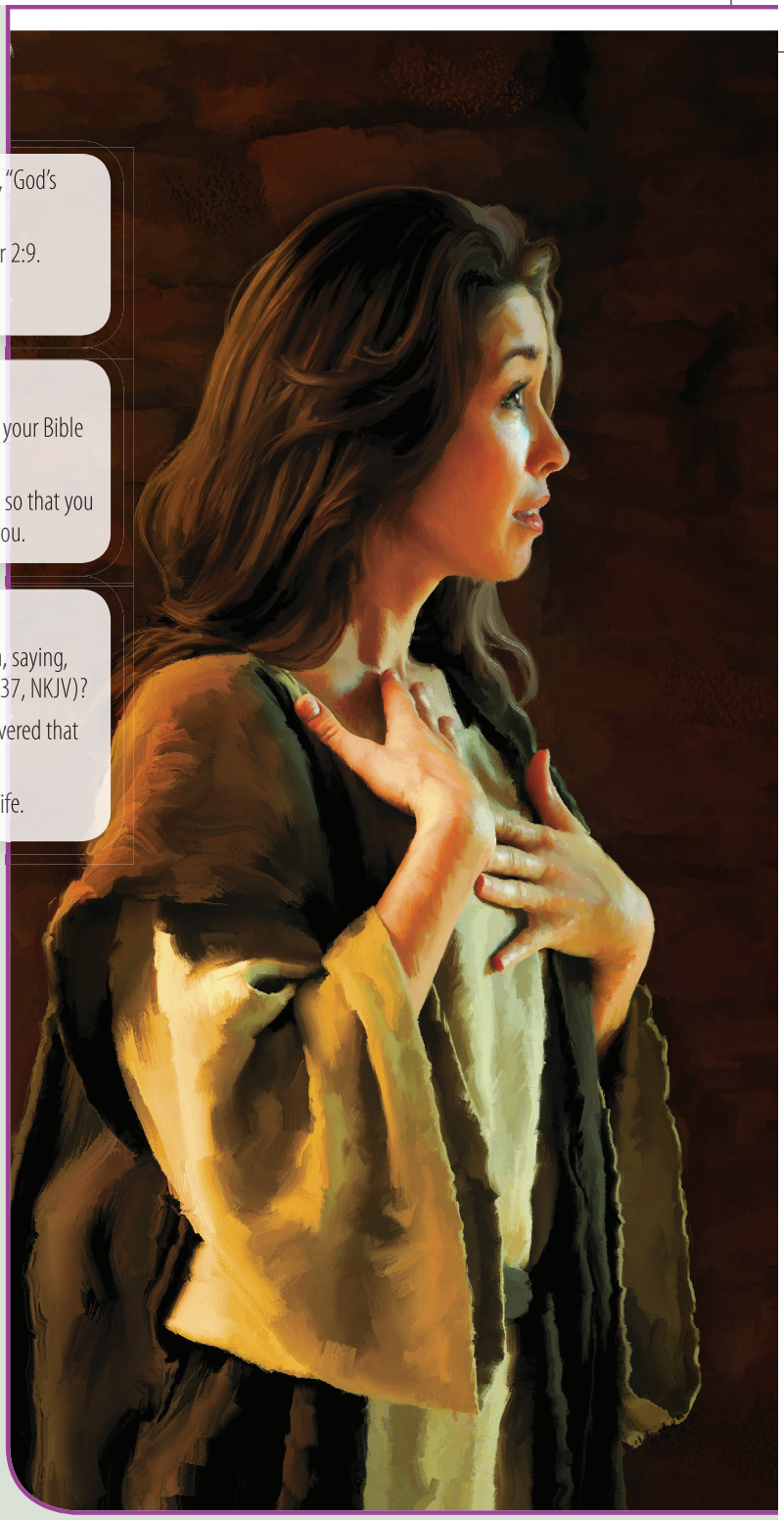
Tuesday

READ Read Luke 1:35-38.

THINK Why did the angel mention Elizabeth, saying, "with God nothing will be impossible" (verse 37, NKJV)?

SHARE Tell someone about a time you discovered that with God nothing is impossible.

PRAY Ask God to do the impossible in your life.



favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," asked Mary in astonishment, "since I am a virgin?"

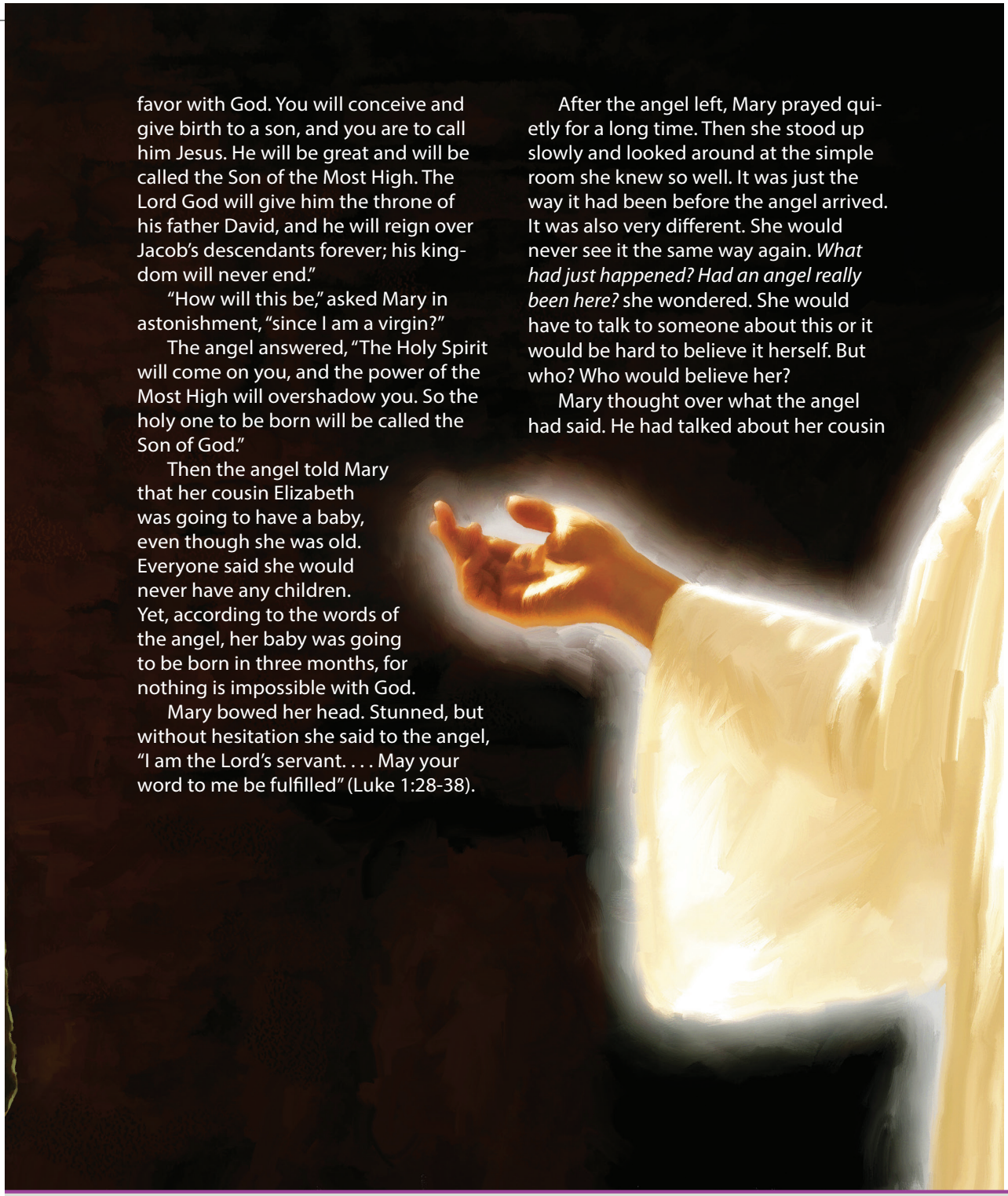
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Then the angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a baby, even though she was old. Everyone said she would never have any children. Yet, according to the words of the angel, her baby was going to be born in three months, for nothing is impossible with God.

Mary bowed her head. Stunned, but without hesitation she said to the angel, "I am the Lord's servant. . . . May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:28-38).

After the angel left, Mary prayed quietly for a long time. Then she stood up slowly and looked around at the simple room she knew so well. It was just the way it had been before the angel arrived. It was also very different. She would never see it the same way again. *What had just happened? Had an angel really been here?* she wondered. She would have to talk to someone about this or it would be hard to believe it herself. But who? Who would believe her?

Mary thought over what the angel had said. He had talked about her cousin



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Wednesday

READ Read Luke 1:39-45.

THINK How did Elizabeth respond to Mary before Mary had even told her angel story?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, compare and contrast the work for which God has chosen Mary and Elizabeth.

REFLECT What do you think God has chosen for you?

PRAY Ask God to impress you with His plan for your life.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 1:46-55.

THINK Mary's song is often called the Magnificat (in Latin) because in it she magnified the Lord. For what things do you magnify the Lord?

SHARE Tell someone about how God has blessed you.

PRAY Praise God for something amazing He has done in your life.

Friday

READ Read Luke 1:26-56 with your family.

LISTEN If you are able to find it, listen to the Magnificat together with your family.

CREATE Illustrate Mary's song or put it to music and perform it together.

PRAY Praise God for choosing you to be His child and to honor Him with your life.

Elizabeth. She too was going to have a special child. She would understand what Mary needed so much to talk about. Mary flew around the house making arrangements to be gone for a while. She packed a small bundle to carry with her on her journey into the hill country.

Finally she arrived at Elizabeth and Zechariah's home. As she entered and greeted her cousin, she knew she had come to the right place. Elizabeth already knew! She stood up and greeted Mary with a blessing and the announcement that the child Mary was going to have was blessed. "But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy," Elizabeth told Mary with excitement.

Mary set down her bundle and gave her cousin a big hug. They were going to have plenty to talk about. God had chosen them both for awesome responsibilities.

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Elizabeth said (Luke 1:39-45).

"I am so filled with praise to God, I could sing to Him right now!" Mary exclaimed.

"Go ahead," Elizabeth replied. "We have plenty to sing about as we worship Him."





PUZZLE
10

WORSHIP JESUS

Instructions: Find each word in the Bible verse (but not the reference found in parentheses) hidden in the puzzle below. The words twist and turn (either forward, backward, upward, downward, or diagonally) and do not follow a straight line. The first letter of each word is next to the last letter of the previous word, so you should be able to draw a line through the whole puzzle without lifting your pencil.

"We love because he first loved us"
(1 John 4:19, NIV).

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