

Walk Thru the Bible Presents:



# CHOSEN

When God Calls Your Name

PHIL TUTTLE

Course Workbook

WALK THRU THE BIBLE®

BIBLICAL  CHARACTER

S E R I E S

*Chosen: When God Calls Your Name*

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***Helping people everywhere live God's Word . . .  
and love God's Word.***

That's where "igniting passion for God's Word," a phrase we use frequently, comes in. Our mission is to create a path to help people encounter God, to connect them with His heart and open their ears to His voice. We believe that making disciples is more than simply making converts; it's helping people cultivate a dynamic, growing relationship with God. And igniting passion for His Word is a vital part of that mission.

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## ***Step into the Story: Innovative Live Events***

Experience live events that unveil God's Word as you've never known it before. Our live events tell God's story in a way that's interactive, relevant, and fun. As you're learning God's story, you're developing insight into yours—and enjoying an adventure that will last a lifetime. We offer more than 10 different live events, including: *Walk Thru the Old Testament* (for adults), *OT Live* (for students), and *Kids in the Book* (for children).



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## WHEN GOD CALLS YOUR NAME

Mary, the mother of Jesus. She may be the toughest woman you've ever encountered. The things Mary went through—the responsibility she carried and the pain she endured in order to fulfill God's purpose for her life—would make many of us shrink back in fear. Yet many people relegate her to women's Bible studies, and then only after Ruth and Esther (two other strong women, by the way). It's fascinating to me how our church culture implies that Bible studies on female characters are for women, but Bible studies on male characters are for everybody. I can promise that Mary has life-changing lessons for all of us.

The Bible calls Mary the most blessed of women, which is a huge cue from God that she's worth knowing. From her, we can learn what happens when He zooms in on a person and says, "I've got something I want you to do." God's calling on people's lives didn't end with Scripture. It continues today. Anyone who wants to know His plan for his or her life will pick up some valuable insights from Mary.

*Chosen* looks at four key themes in Mary's life and applies them to our lives now. God chose her for a reason, and she experienced both the promise and the pain of His purposes. There were moments of exhilaration and moments of agony, and quite a few wonders and mysteries in between. Through it all, God blessed her, strengthened her, and led her in one of history's most unusual assignments.

My hope for this study is that you will grow in your understanding of what it means to be blessed, strengthened, and guided in your life too. I pray that as God calls your name—and He will if you've submitted to Him—you'll respond as bravely and resolutely as Mary did, and that God will use you powerfully for His eternal purposes. May your life—and many others through you—be forever changed.

*Phil Tuttle*

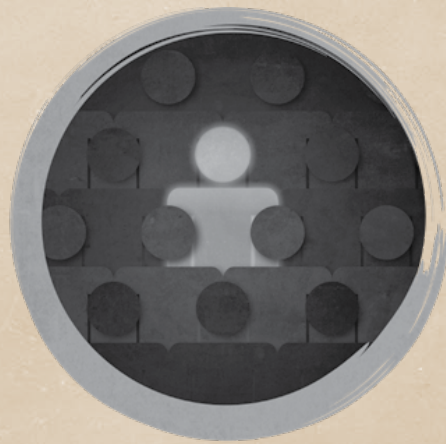
Philip S. Tuttle  
President and CEO  
Walk Thru the Bible





SESSION 1:

WHEN GOD  
CHANGES  
EVERYTHING



CHOSEN

When God Calls Your Name

## **Step into the Story**

BETROTHAL was much more binding in Joseph and Mary's culture than a typical engagement is today. It could take place as early as 12 years old. According to Tyndale's New Testament Commentaries, "It was a solemn undertaking to marry, so binding that divorce was necessary to break it."

## **MARY'S PLAN: LUKE 1:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

**Mary was a young virgin, probably a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Mary was pledged to be married to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Engagement was much more \_\_\_\_\_ in Jewish culture than ours.**

## **THE INTERRUPTION: LUKE 1:28**

<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

**God chose \_\_\_\_\_ to visit Mary.**

**Gabriel said Mary was highly \_\_\_\_\_ and assured her the Lord was with her.**

**Favored is from the same root word as \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **GOD'S PLAN: LUKE 1:29-33**

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.



## When God Changes Everything

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Mary was greatly \_\_\_\_\_ and full of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."

Gabriel told her not to be \_\_\_\_\_ and repeated that she had found \_\_\_\_\_ with God.



**ONLY THREE ANGELS ARE NAMED IN SCRIPTURE:** Gabriel (Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26), Michael (Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7), and Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12).

<sup>31</sup> "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Mary would give birth to a \_\_\_\_\_.

- His name would be Jesus.
- He would be great.
- He would be called the Son of the Most High.
- He would be given David's throne.
- He would reign forever.

## Step into the Story

WE ASSOCIATE the word favor with "favorite." And perhaps we think of that spoiled "daddy's girl" or "momma's boy" who gets whatever he/she wants. But as we will see from Mary, being divinely favored doesn't mean entitled or guaranteed an easy life free of struggles. The word favor, used in this context, doesn't suggest that Mary is able to give favor to others. Rather, it means that she has received favor from God. He chose her to be the mother of our Savior.

## **Step into the Story**

*"WE ARE NOT uncertain of God, but uncertain of what He will do next. If we are only certain in our beliefs we get dignified and severe and have the ban of finality about our views but when we are rightly related to God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy."*

— Oswald  
Chambers, *My  
Utmost for His  
Highest*

## **MARY'S QUESTION: LUKE 1:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

**Mary asked how this was possible since she was a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Mary's response was based on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>35</sup> 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."

**Gabriel told Mary her baby would be conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

**Jesus' virgin birth was both a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Mystery can lead us to confusion and frustration or to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **GABRIEL'S ANSWER: LUKE 1:36-37**

<sup>36</sup> "Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

<sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

## When God Changes Everything

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**Gabriel used Elizabeth's pregnancy to illustrate God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Gabriel assured Mary that God will always \_\_\_\_\_ His promises.**



ONE OF THE STRONGEST ADVOCATES FOR THE MIRACULOUS CLAIM THAT JESUS WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN WAS LUKE, A PHYSICIAN.

### MARY'S RESPONSE: LUKE 1:38

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**Mary declared that she was the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Mary surrendered herself and \_\_\_\_\_ her role in God's plan.**

**Mary chose to please God regardless of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

### Step into the Story

THE LORD IS not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.  
— 2 Peter 3:9

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."— Isaiah 55:10-11



## Step into the Story

MARY SHOWED tremendous faith when she said, "I am the Lord's servant." The consequences could have included:

- Labeled immoral
- Publicly humiliated
- Broken engagement
- Rejected by family and friends
- Destined for poverty and homelessness
- Considered to be crazy

## DISCUSS WHAT YOU'VE HEARD

1. What is God doing in your life right now that doesn't make sense?\*
2. Prior to this study, what has been your knowledge/opinion of Mary? Put another way, what would you have said about her a month ago if—let's say—a five year-old child had said to you, "Tell me all about Jesus' mommy"?
3. The story of Mary raises so many important issues and questions. Her experience is first and foremost about *change*, about a life suddenly interrupted and radically redirected. How are you when it comes to change? Rate yourself on a 1-10 scale (where 1 – "I break into hives if I have to get a new toothbrush!" and 10 – "I go nuts if I don't get to change my job and my address about every six months!"). How possible is it for change-resistant people to, well, change?\*
4. In a matter of moments, Mary's entire world was flipped upside down. Talk about blind-sided! When in your life have you most dramatically seen your plans and dreams suddenly go up in smoke? What did you do (are you doing)?\*
5. Mary, despite being very young, demonstrated great maturity. She declared herself to be God's servant. She relinquished her plans, her future. In effect, she said, "I'm all in...let's do this." What does this reveal about her character and faith (especially when you consider that other, older biblical characters, like Moses and Jonah, argued with God when He called them to special tasks)?\*
6. Think about a time when you were selected for something wonderful (i.e., a great honor like being on an All-Star team, he or she said "I love you," given a big promotion at work). Now think about a time when you were approached about tackling a tough task, or chosen by a superior to handle an unpleasant situation, etc. Compare and contrast those different experiences. How was Mary's calling both at once?

## APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word *favor*? How would you interpret someone telling you, "God has favored you!"?
2. For the great majority of the world, God's calling is rarely as clear as what Mary received. Think about it. She got an angelic visitor... who brought her a heavenly message...and this was followed by a miraculous pregnancy. Mary is one of the few people in history who could never honestly say, "I didn't have a clue what God put me on earth to do."

But clear or not, God has plans and purposes for each of us (Ephesians 2:10). What do you believe God is calling you to do at this stage of your life, and why do you think that? How are you doing with that call?

3. In what area of your life are your plans and hopes being thwarted or perhaps even destroyed (i.e., things are not going the way you anticipated)?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My career              | <input type="checkbox"/> My marital hopes        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My desire for children | <input type="checkbox"/> My ministry aspirations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My financial goals     | <input type="checkbox"/> My spiritual desires    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____           |  |

How can you emulate the attitude of Mary in your hard and disappointing situation?

4. The verses in Luke 1:26-38 don't have time stamps on them. That is, we don't know how long this interaction with Gabriel lasted. But it's worth noting that Mary doesn't ask for a few days or a couple weeks to think, pray, and/or talk through the angel's news with Joseph, her best friend, and/or her small group. Her submissive spirit of surrender is evident immediately. Where specifically in your life do you sense God calling (and yet you're stalling)? What will you do today to begin moving in a direction of trust and obedience?

## Step into the Story

CHOSEN CUTS both ways when God calls your name.

*"I can't believe You are asking ME to do this."*

*"I can't believe You're asking me to do THIS."*

Notice that Mary didn't say, "How CAN this be?" but "How WILL this be?" Her question wasn't about possibilities; it was about practicalities. Mary's first response was to believe Gabriel even if she didn't have all the details.