



# KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2023


**BIBLE LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38**




## The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1:26-38

In today's Gospel reading the Angel Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Mary, and she responds to the miraculous and incredible news in faith. If you are like me, you have probably read and heard the account of Mary after the account of Zechariah and wondered why they were treated so differently by the Angel. Zechariah was made to be left speechless for 9 months, while the Angel patiently explained to Mary how these things would happen. They both seemed to be wondering the same things, and the clues are there in English, but they were clear in the original languages.

The original Greek phrases Zechariah's question as "by what will I know this?" and other translations read "How will I know this for certain?". Hearing it that way, it becomes a bit clearer, and you can almost hear the disbelief in Zechariah's voice.

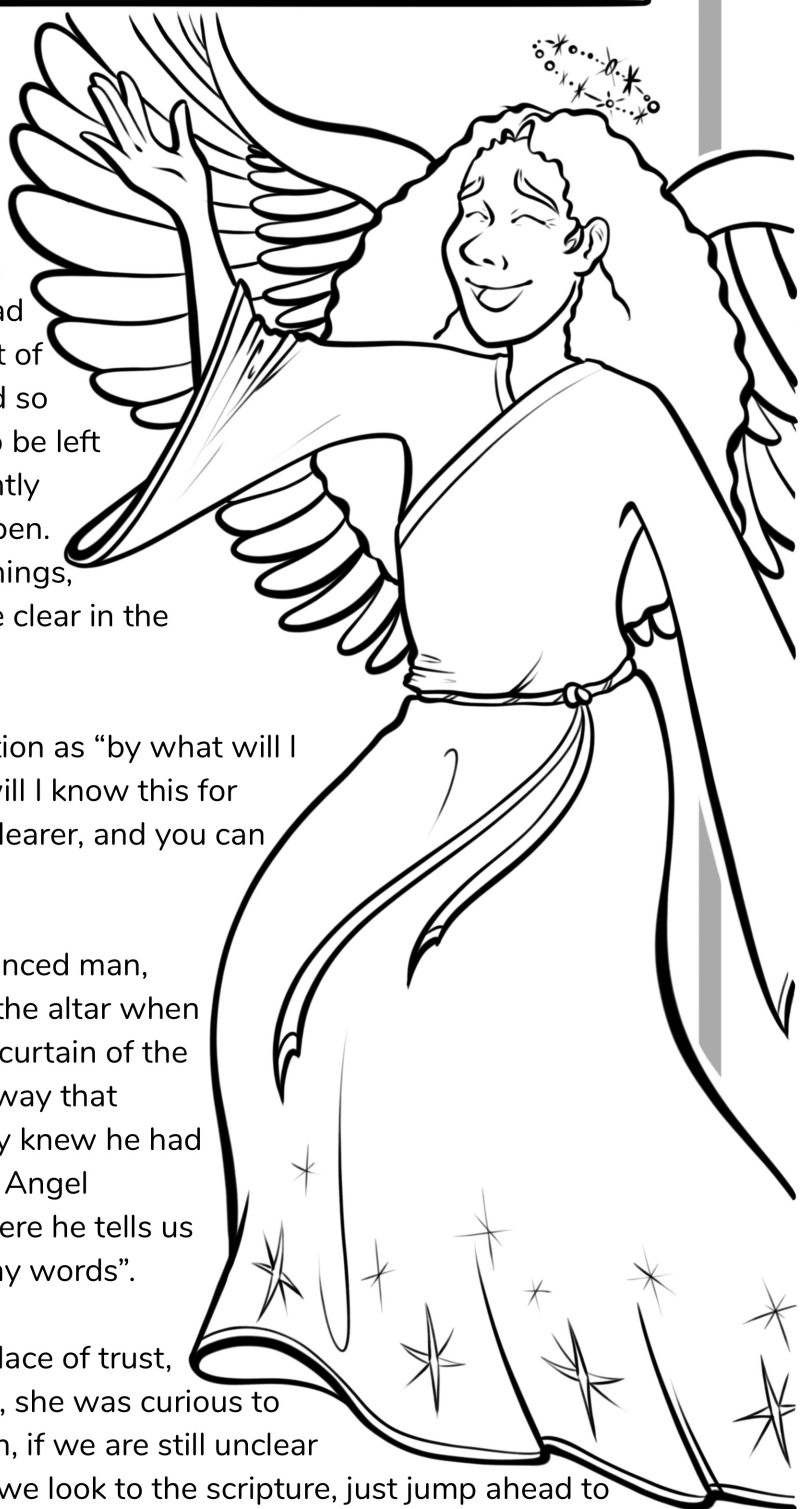


We also know that Zechariah was an experienced man, who worked in the temple, and was tending to the altar when the Angel appeared with him behind the heavy curtain of the Holy place where only he could go. Even in the way that people responded to Zechariah's behaviour, they knew he had seen a vision. If you are still wondering why the Angel responded so severely, look to the scripture, where he tells us back in verse 20 "because you did not believe my words".



Mary, on the other hand, responded from a place of trust, even though she was young, and inexperienced, she was curious to know how Jesus' birth would come about. Again, if we are still unclear how Mary's response differed from Zechariah's we look to the scripture, just jump ahead to verse 45 where Elizabeth calls it out (perhaps to her husband's embarrassment) saying "blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord".

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(Continued)



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE  
OF CANADA

When the Angel announces the Gospel, and it is recorded for us to read and hear it, the Lord is also calling us to faith and to “bear” Christ. Of course, we don’t bear Him as our child, but by sharing His name and telling others about Him we bear Him on our lips as the Holy One of God our Saviour at Christmas and forever.



### Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for sending the Angel to announce the arrival of Your Son, Jesus, to Zechariah, to Mary and to us. Holy Spirit, help us to share the wonderful news of Christmas with others so that we too can bear Christ to others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

**Notes:**