

April 26

Luke 1:5-25

These verses tell of the promise made to Zechariah about the coming birth of his son, the one we know as John the Baptist.

Question to Consider:

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." In response, the angel pronounced punishment on Zechariah. How do you react to that?

Prayer:

Father God, forgive me when I doubt you because, just like Zechariah, I will encounter situations that cause me to struggle with my faith. Help my faith to remain strong. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

April 27

Luke 1:26-38

In this passage, we are told of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, promising her the birth of a son, Jesus.

Question to Consider:

Mary asked the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" She was not punished. How was her question different than Zechariah's?

Prayer:

Loving God, I know that you welcome questions, so when I lack understanding and seek to know more, please answer and help me to receive the answer you give. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

April 28

Luke 1:39-56

Mary visits her relative Elizabeth and while she does, she sings a song of praise to God. It is known as "Mary's Song," or *The Magnificat*.

Question to Consider:

Read the words of Mary's Song closely. What do you discover about God in those verses?

Prayer:

Merciful God, the world as we have made it and the world as you intend it are very different, in some ways. I pray, Lord, that I will love you and other people the way you intend, even if that means turning some things upside down. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

April 29

Luke 1:57-66

These verses tell of the birth of John the Baptist.

Question to Consider:

Are there similarities between the words of praise Zechariah spoke and the words of Mary's Song that you read yesterday?

Prayer:

Father God, Zechariah offers up to you a song of praise. I pray that I also praise you, each and every day. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

April 30

Matthew 1:18-25

This passage gives us Matthew's telling of the birth of Jesus.

Question to Consider:

God spoke to Joseph in a dream. Think of the dreams you have had, especially dreams that you have repeatedly (recurring dreams). Is it possible that God has spoken to you in a dream?

Prayer:

God of grace, you spoke to Joseph in a dream and he recognized it and followed your will. I pray that I do the same if you choose to speak to me in that way. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.