

Luke 1:26-38

Would you let the impossible happen to you?

New Revised Standard Version	The Voice	International Children’s Bible
<p>²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said,</p>	<p>²⁶Six months later in Nazareth, a city in <i>the rural province of</i> Galilee, the heavenly messenger Gabriel made another appearance. This time the messenger was sent by God ²⁷to meet with a virgin named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David himself. ²⁸The messenger entered her home.</p>	<p>²⁶⁻²⁷During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸The angel came to her and said,</p>
<p>“Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.</p>	<p>Messenger: Greetings! You are favored, and the Lord is with you! [The earliest manuscripts omit: Among all women on the earth, you have been blessed.]</p> <p>²⁹The heavenly messenger’s words baffled Mary, and she wondered what type of greeting this was.</p>	<p>“Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.”</p> <p>²⁹But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, “What does this mean?”</p>
<p>³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”</p>	<p>Messenger: ³⁰Mary, don’t be afraid. You have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you are going to become pregnant. You will have a son, and you must name Him “Savior,” <i>or</i> Jesus. ³²Jesus will become the greatest among men. He will be known as the Son of the Highest God. God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David, ³³and He will reign over the covenant family of Jacob forever.</p>	<p>³⁰The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. ³¹Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. ³³He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end.”</p>
<p>³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said</p>	<p>Mary: ³⁴But I have never been with a man. How can this be possible?</p> <p>Messenger: ³⁵The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The Most High will overshadow you. That’s why this holy child will be known, <i>as not just your son, but also</i> as the Son of God. ³⁶<i>It sounds impossible</i>, but listen – you know your relative Elizabeth has been unable to bear children and is</p>	<p>³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen? I am a virgin!”</p> <p>³⁵The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could</p>

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to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”	now far too old to be a mother. Yet she has become pregnant, <i>as God willed it</i> . Yes, in three months, she will have a son. ³⁷ So the impossible is possible with God.	not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. ³⁷ God can do everything!”
³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.	Mary (<i>deciding in her heart</i>): ³⁸ Here I am, the Lord’s humble servant. As you have said, let it be done to me. And the heavenly messenger was gone.	³⁸ Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” Then the angel went away.

- Verses 26-27: When was “the sixth month”? How is Mary identified? Why? Who visits Mary? Who sent the visitor?
- Verses 28-29: What does the visitor say to Mary? What is her reaction? Does she voice her reaction? Compare the translations to the interlinear; what translation do you prefer?
- Verses 30-33: What three things does the visitor say to Mary? Earlier, in verses 13-17, Gabriel visited Zechariah. Compare that encounter with this visit with Mary. What similarities are there in what the visitor says to Mary and to Zechariah?

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
- Verse 34-37: How does Mary respond to Gabriel’s announcement? Earlier, how did Zechariah respond to Gabriel’s announcement to him? How does Gabriel react to Mary’s response? To Zechariah’s response? What similarities and difference do you see?

Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”
- How will Mary conceive? What does Gabriel tell Mary about Zechariah’s wife Elizabeth? Do you think Mary already knows about Elizabeth’s pregnancy? If so, why does Gabriel mention it? Also, if Mary knows about Elizabeth’s pregnancy and the circumstances of how she conceived, how might she be comparing what Gabriel said will happen to her to what she may know about what happened to Elizabeth?
- Verse 38: Throughout the encounter, what is the tone of the announcement (statement, question, request, command, etc.)? What does Mary ultimately state at the end? What is the tone of her statement (permission, acquiescence, surrender, submission, etc.)?
- How do you respond when God says the impossible is going to happen?