

## Scripture

*Luke 1:26-31, 38 (RSV)*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

## Reflection

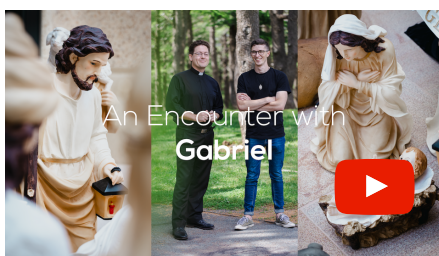
Mary said yes!

Mary stepped into the unknown. Do you think she knew what she was saying yes to? What did she think? How did she feel? What was going through her mind?

God's great invitation to Mary was to spend her whole life with Jesus. Not just the good parts or when she felt like it; all of it.

Mary embraces this intimate gift from God: a new life. She allowed herself to belong to God. Does your life belong to Jesus or just part of it?

Amen.



[cgyouth.org.au/  
christmas](http://cgyouth.org.au/christmas)



## Contemplate + Share

Pause a few minutes with God; pray, journal.

- Q.** Did something stand out to you? Why?
- Q.** What is God saying to you right now?
- Q.** What part of your identity did you uncover?
- Q.** Do you feel compelled to make an action?

## Prayer

Jesus, sometimes I only choose to love you when it is easy or fashionable.

My own self can get in the way of the gift you wish to give me.

Transform me into a vessel that is willing to accept you with my whole life.

Jesus, you offer us intimacy:

*Lord have mercy*

Jesus, you call us to a life with you:

*Christ have mercy*

Jesus, you gave us Mary to be our mother:

*Lord have mercy*