July 26, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
When we, like Mary, accept God's leading in our lives, we have many new things about His loving guidance to treasure and ponder in our hearts

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
Allow yourself a few minutes of quiet during this busy season to sit and listen for what God might be saying to you

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart
(Luke 2:19 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 24, 2018)

Series: The Testimony of Faithful Witnesses

UNIT 3: Faithful Witnesses Spread the Good News

NEXT WEEK

Thomas, the Hesitant Believer
(John 11:14-16; 14:5-8; 20:24-29; 21:1-2)

Mary, the Loyal Mother
Luke 2:15-19; John 2:1-5, 19:25-27

Lesson Background and Introduction

Luke 2:1 sets Jesus' birth narrative during the reign of Caesar Augustus (27 BC-AD 14). Augustus was a powerful ruler, and his supporters heralded him as the "savior of the world" because he brought peace to the Roman Empire. Luke tells us that Caesar Augustus decreed a census. The purpose of such a decree was to determine who was subject to taxation and military service. The census required that people return to their familial hometowns. It also served as a reminder that Rome ruled the world, especially for those who lived in small, far-off provinces like Palestine. Thus, Mary and Joseph journeyed the 90 miles from Nazareth in north Galilee southward to Bethlehem. There, they had a baby! Luke's Gospel provides many details about Mary and her experience, more than any other Gospel. Luke records the angel Gabriel's visit and Mary's miraculous conception (Luke 1:26-38). He also describes Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth's home and the special reception she received (1:39-45). Luke records Mary's worshipful song of praise to God (known as the Magnificat) and her example of faithful trust in God's plan (1:46-55).

Mary's "yes" to God included cherishing her son's identity through tender, exciting, and excruciating circumstances. She trusted God to sustain her journey and Jesus as her son and divine Lord. Mary held Jesus as he took his first breaths, and she was there with him as he took his last. She was with him as much as possible in between, even witnessing his first miracle. Mary observed Jesus' earthly life in all its humble humanity and divine activity. She kept watch and cherished the glorious (albeit painful) unfolding of God's perfect plan: the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Mary's consistent "yes" models a beautiful pathway through uncertainty for us. She believed so fiercely in God's provision that she submitted her whole life to obedience and wonder. From the beginning, Mary collected and purposefully remembered the signs God sent that proved his prophetic word was true. She didn't waiver in her belief. Mary's love and loyalty were rewarded by continued care and belonging in God's family. Mary was a model disciple. She knew the significance of Jesus' life and trusted that he could make a difference in times of need. Jesus was a model son. He did all he could to provide care and support for his mother.

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Mother's Amazement (Luke 2:15-19)

Amazement at visitors (15-17)

Visitors seeking the king of the Jews (Matt 2:1-2)
Visitors following a star (Matt 2:9-11)
Visitors that were led by angels (Luke 2:11-12)

Amazement at responses (18)

Response of promises fulfilled (Luke 2:27-32)
Response at the greatness of God (Luke 9:43)
Response at how much God loves (John 5:20)
Response that should lead to faith in God (John 12:9-11)

Amazement to ponder (19)

Pondering about the ways of God (Hos 14:9)
Pondering about what the child would become (Luke 1:66)
Pondering in the heart (Luke 2:51-52)
Pondering about the things being said (Luke 1:29)

Mother's Request (John 2:1-5)

Request at a wedding (1-2)

A wedding where Jesus was invited (Luke 7:36)
A wedding where everything should have been for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31)
A wedding where many fellowshipping with Jesus (Rev 3:20)
A wedding where opposition was seeking a way to judge Jesus (Matt 11:19)

Request for wine (3)

Wine that gladdens the heart Ps 104:15
Wine that makes life merry Eccl 10:19
Wine that also represented the New Covenant of Jesus Matt 26:27-28

Request questioned (4)

Questioned about Jesus' purposes (Luke 2:49)
Questioned about the right time (John 7:6)
Questioned about timing (John 12:23)

Request for action (5)

Actions based on Jesus' words (Luke 5:4-6)
Actions that proves obedience (Luke 6:46)
Actions that are for Jesus' friends (John 15:14)

Mother's Future (John 19:25-27)

Future of care assignment (25-26)

Care through God using others (2 Cor 8:14)
Care through God's supplying directly (2 Cor 9:10)
Care that should evoke thanksgiving to God (2 Cor 9:12)
Care through God's glorious riches (Phil 4:19)

Future protection (27)

Protection in times of trouble (Nahum 1:7)
Protection that is eternal (John 10:28-29)
Protection through the faithful Father (2 Thes. 3:3)
Protection from evildoers (Ps 14:6)