

1 - Mary, a young virgin, was living in Galilee of Nazareth and was engaged to be married to Joseph, a Jewish carpenter.



2 - An angel named Gabriel, visited her and explained to her that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit. She would carry and give birth to this child and she would name him Jesus.

3 - At first Mary was afraid and troubled by the angel's words. Being a virgin, Mary questioned the angel, "How will this be?"



4 - The angel explained that the child would be God's own Son and, therefore, "nothing is impossible with God." Humbled and in awe, Mary believed the angel of the Lord and rejoiced in God her Savior.

5 - Mary loved God very much and believed what the angel, Gabriel told her. The angel told her to name the son Jesus.



6 - While Mary was still engaged to Joseph, she miraculously became pregnant through the Holy Spirit, as foretold to her by the angel.

7 - When Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he had every right to feel disgraced. He knew the child was not his own and people would talk about him.

8 - Joseph was not very happy with Mary. He thought she was unfaithful to him and thought he may break the engagement, he did the right thing and treated Mary with extreme kindness and was very quiet about her pregnancy.

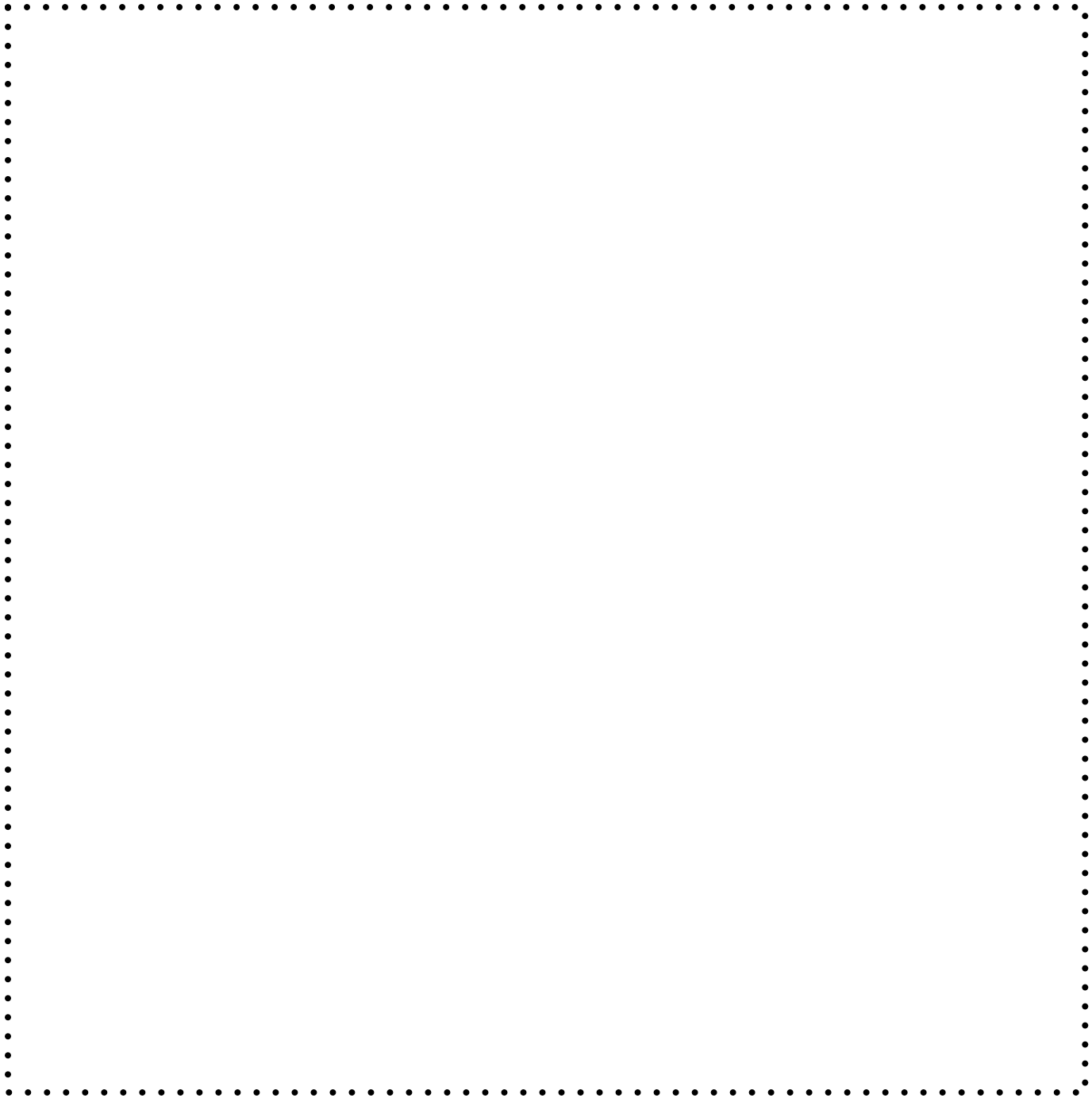
9 - But God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to tell him Mary's story was true and he should stay married to Mary. The angel explained that the child within Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit, that his name would be Jesus and that he was the Messiah, God with us.

10 - When Joseph woke from his dream, he willingly obeyed God and took Mary home to be his wife, in spite of the public humiliation he would face.

Perhaps this noble quality is one of the reasons God chose him to be the Messiah's earthly father.



11 - Joseph and Mary lived together until it was time for her to give birth to Jesus.



12 - At that time, Caesar Augustus, said that a count of all of the people be taken, and every person in the entire Roman world had to go to his own town to register. Joseph, was required to go to Bethlehem to register with Mary.

13 - While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. The inn was too crowded, and Mary had to give birth in a stable. She wrapped the baby in cloths and placed him in a manger.



14 - Out in the fields an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds who were tending their flocks of sheep by night. The angel announced that the Savior had been born in the town of David.



15 - Suddenly a great host of heavenly beings appeared with the angels and began singing praises to God. As the angelic beings departed, the shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem and see the Christ-child.

16 - There they found Mary, Joseph and the baby, in the stable. After their visit, they began to spread the word about this amazing child and everything the angel had said about him. They went on their way still praising and glorifying God.

17 - But Mary kept quiet,
treasuring their words and
pondering them in her heart. It
must have been beyond her
ability to grasp, that sleeping in
her arms—the tender child she
had just borne—was the Savior
of the world.

18 - After Jesus' birth, Herod was king of Judea. At this time wise men (Magi) from the east saw a large star, they came in search, knowing the star signified the birth of the king of the Jews.

19 - The wise men came to the Jewish rulers in Jerusalem and asked where the Christ was to be born. The rulers explained, "In Bethlehem in Judea," Herod secretly met with the Magi and asked them to report back after they had found the child.

20 - Herod told the Magi that he too wanted to go and worship the babe. But secretly Herod was plotting to kill the child.



21 - So the wise men continued
to follow the star in search of
the new born king and found
Jesus with his mother in
Bethlehem.

22 - They bowed and worshiped him, offering treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. That night as they slept, they had a dream that King Herod wanted to kill Jesus and to not return home. When they awakened in the morning they did not return home.

23 - Soon after that Joseph had a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt because King Herod had ordered for Jesus to be found and killed.

24 - When the wise men did not return home Herod ordered all of the boys be killed in Bethlehem but Jesus was very safe in the arms of his mother Mary and foster father, Joseph.

25 - On Christmas Day we
remember Jesus, our Lord and
Savior. We love you Jesus!
Happy Birthday!