



The Harness Devotional

August 10 – 15, 2026

Mary of Nazareth: Mother of Jesus

Verses: Luke 1:26-56

Luke 1:26-38 - In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. (NIV)

Song of the week: [Breath of Heaven \(Mary's Song\) by Amy Grant](#)

This song is a deeply moving Christmas ballad that imagines Mary's heartfelt prayers as she carries the promised Messiah. Blending vulnerability, faith, and surrender, the song beautifully captures the emotional weight of her divine calling and God's sustaining presence amid uncertainty and hope.

Monday: A Servant's Heart

Scripture: Luke 1:26–28 (ESV) "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... And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!'"

Reflection: Mary was a young woman living an ordinary life in an insignificant town when Heaven interrupted her world. God's favor did not find her in a palace, but in a place of humble obscurity. True readiness for God's calling starts with a quiet, submissive heart that is simply available for Him to use. Am I truly available for God to change my plans today, or am I holding onto my own agenda?

Daily Action Step: Begin your morning by whispering a simple prayer of availability: "Lord, my day is Yours. Interrupt me however You see fit."

Tuesday: Overcoming the Impossible

Scripture: Luke 1:34–37 (ESV) "And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?' And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you... For nothing will be impossible with God.'"

Reflection: Mary did not hide her confusion; she brought her practical questions directly to the angel. God does not demand blind logic; He

invites us to bring our limits to His limitless power. When your circumstances say a situation is completely dead or impossible, remember that the Holy Spirit specializes in creating life from nothing. Pray for the confidence to bring your greatest impossibilities to God without fear.

Daily Action Step: Write down the single biggest obstacle you are facing right now. Cross it out and write "Nothing is impossible with God" over it.

Wednesday: Total Surrender

Scripture: Luke 1:38 (ESV) "And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her."

Reflection: Mary knew this calling would bring intense social scandal, public shame, and the potential loss of her relationship. Yet, she gave a total, unqualified "yes" to God before she knew any of the logistical details. Radical obedience means trusting the Character of the One making the promise more than your own security. What is the "yes" I am withholding from God because I am afraid of what people might think?

Daily Action Step: Choose to obey God in one small, uncomfortable thing today, without waiting for perfect circumstances.

Thursday: Magnifying the Lord

Scripture: Luke 1:46–49 (ESV) "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant... he who is mighty has done great things for me...'

Reflection: Before her physical circumstances changed, Mary erupted into a song of absolute praise and adoration. To magnify something means to make it look larger; Mary chose to make God bigger than her immediate fears. Worship is a powerful weapon that shifts our focus away from our problems and puts it back onto His power. Ask the Holy Spirit to shift your vocabulary from complaining about your problems to magnifying His greatness.

Daily Action Step: Put on your worship music today and spend 10 minutes praising God specifically for His attributes, without asking for anything.

Friday: Treasuring and Pondering

Scripture: Luke 2:19 (ESV) "But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."

Reflection: From the chaotic noise of the shepherds to the unexpected prophecy of Simeon, Mary did not rush to post her experiences or explain them away. She sat quietly with the mystery of God's

movements, safely storing them in her heart. Spiritual maturity requires us to slow down, process, and deeply ponder what God is teaching us in the quiet moments. Am I rushing through life too fast to actually notice, treasure, and digest what God is saying to me?

Daily Action Step: Set a 5-minute timer for absolute silence today. Do not look at your phone; sit with God and listen.

Saturday: Enduring the Cross

Scripture: John 19:25 (ESV) "But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene."

Reflection: Mary's calling brought her from the joy of the manger to the excruciating agony of the cross. She stood faithfully by her Son even when everyone else fled in terror, watching the promise die before her eyes. True faith does not abandon God when the story gets painful; it stays present, knowing that death is never the final word. Pray for the grit and endurance to stand firm in your faith during seasons of intense grief or loss.

Daily Action Step: Reach out to someone currently walking through a dark season of grief, and let them know you are standing with them.