

EFCDP SERMON NOTES • March 30, 2025

Series: God of the Impossible # 1

“God in You” • Luke 1:26-45

The Big Idea: *You can experience God's greatest miracle today.*

1. If you have trusted in Jesus, you already have favor with God. **Vv. 26-30**

2. If you have trusted in Jesus, God lives in you forever. **Vv. 31-35**

3. If you have trusted in Jesus, you have already received God's greatest miracle. **Vv. 36-45**

Digging Deeper

A guide for personal and small group study for the week of March 30, 2025.



→ Was any part of the message unclear? Which aspect of the message do you think will be the most challenging to apply to your own life?

→ Do you agree with the “big idea” of this passage? Why or why not?

1. How would you define what a true miracle is?
2. Do your friends and family members believe in miracles? Why or why not?
3. Have you personally witnessed a miracle? If so, describe it.
4. If you have personally experienced a miracle, did it result in some change in your life? If so, briefly describe it.
5. Have you told others about a miracle you may have seen or personally experienced? If so, did they believe you or were they skeptical? If skeptical, how did you respond to that attitude?
6. Do you think accepting or rejecting the possibility of miracles is related to a person’s overall view of the spiritual world? Or can a person believe in miracles without believing there is an all-powerful, loving, God?
7. Read Luke 1:13-17. How does Gabriel’s word to Mary compare to his message to Zechariah?
 - Compare Mary’s response to Gabriel to how Zachariah responded—in what ways do they differ?
8. What truths about Jesus are emphasized in Luke 1:26-37?

9. What might Mary's response to Gabriel's greeting reveal about how she regarded herself? Choose one answer below or write your own:

_____ [pride] "It's about time God noticed me—I've been waiting!"

_____ [arrogance] "I'm a very busy person—I don't have time to talk with angels..."

Make an appointment with my secretary!

_____ [shame] "I am such a bad person. God couldn't possibly be interested in me, much less want to shower me with his grace!"

_____ [humility] "I was not expecting to have an encounter with an angel, especially one who is declaring how much God loves me."

10. Do you think many people today would respond in fear if they knew God wanted to personally interact with them in some way? If so, what would cause people to react in fear?

11. Read 1 John 4:7-21. What does this passage teach about fear? About personal relationships? How does John say we can live with confidence, even knowing that one day we will be evaluated by a holy and perfect God? What is the connection between receiving God's love and how we treat others?

12. How do Gabriel's words in Luke 1:31-33 make it clear that the child Mary will carry is the true Messiah?

13. What risk(s) did Mary's supernatural pregnancy bring into her life?

14. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be conceived by the Holy Spirit rather than the usual way? (See: Romans 5:12, Psalm 51:5, Exodus 20:5-6 and Ezekiel 18:20.)

15. What does Mary's response to Gabriel in Luke 1:38 reveal about her spiritual maturity, even though she was just a teen?

16. What does Mary's visit to Elizabeth reveal about the importance of spending time with others who share our commitment to follow God? How was Elizabeth uniquely qualified to be an encouragement to Mary?

17. What does Elizabeth's response to hearing Mary's news reveal about her spiritual maturity and humility? Was the miracle God did for Mary greater than the miracle God did for Elizabeth? If so, in what way(s)?

18. Does the fact that Mary was not rejected by God even though she reacted in fear (Luke 1:29) encourage you? Can a person believe in God, yet still have fears and doubts? How might Psalm 103:8-14 help?

19. In what area of your life right now do you need to believe Luke 1:37? In what areas of your life have you struggled to follow Mary's example in Luke 1:38? How might you be struggling right now?

20. What is one way you could bring Jesus into the world around you in the next week?

21. Read the following passages. Rate each one (E=easy; H=hard) according to your struggle to believe they are or can be a reality in your life:
____ Psalm 139:16 ____ 2 Timothy 1:8-9 ____ 1 Corinthians 12:27
____ John 15:5 ____ Matthew 20:26-28 ____ Philippians 4:13

Application Ideas:

1. Make sure you have trusted in Jesus alone for your salvation. If you have already become a Christian, pray to have the humble servant attitude Mary demonstrated in Luke 1:38.

2. Meditate on Bible passages that teach how God gives us his grace, such as Ephesians 1:3-10 and 2:8-10, Romans 5:1-2, Titus 2:11-12, and 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Spend time in prayer, thanking God for lavishing his grace upon us.

3. Mary received great encouragement by seeking out Elizabeth. If you do not participate in one of our sermon-based small groups, make a commitment to start. Our small groups are great places to receive encouragement and challenge as you follow Jesus.

4. Look for opportunities to talk about how you have received God's grace to unchurched people around you. You may be surprised at what God will do! Write the names of three people you want God to provide opportunities you can share Jesus with:

→ Which, if any, of these practices do you already generally follow?

→ Which of these do you think will be the most challenging for you to apply to your own life? How can your group pray for you?