

tell me The Story Again

Part 1: The Promise

December 1 & 2, 2018

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**“Familiarity breeds unfamiliarity —
unsuspecting unfamiliarity,
and then contempt.”**

— Dallas Willard

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and He will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on 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. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

No word from God will ever fail.

Hebrews 10:36

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Next Steps

As we look forward to the apex of the Christmas story on Christmas Eve, one of the most meaningful gifts you could give this season is to serve during one of the Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 23 or Monday, December 24.

We'll be opening our doors to hundreds of new people, and we want to offer them amazing hospitality and first-class children's programs. You can sign up today using the insert in today's program. We'll contact you to follow up and wrap up all the details!

Thanks in advance for considering this opportunity.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What was your favorite holiday tradition growing up?
- 2) Is there a book, a song, a movie, or a Bible passage that never gets old for you, no matter how many times you hear it?
- 3) If it's true that familiarity with something eventually leads to disregard for that same thing, how can we keep from becoming too familiar with the Christmas Story?
- 4) The advent season is about waiting expectantly. What do you feel like you are waiting for in this season?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?