**The Gospel of Luke**

**Lesson 2** Luke 1:26-56 The Virgin Mary!

**Questions:**

1. What important truth did you learn from the lecture, and how does it apply to your life?
2. Scan Wiersbe chapter 1 and read pages 21-26.
3. How was Mary’s response to Gabriel’s greeting and message like Zechariah’s? How was it different?
4. How was Gabriel’s news about Elizabeth an encouragement to Mary? How will this news encourage you when facing a seemingly impossible task?
5. Read Luke 1:26-38. The evidence continues to mount!
6. Fulfilled prophecy provides amazing evidence for the proof that Scripture is completely inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). Thus, the Bible is the inerrant and perfect Word of, and from, God (Ps. 119:160).
7. With that said, read 2 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:15; Matthew 1:6, 16-17; Luke 1:26-27, 32; 3:23, 31; Acts 13:32-37; Romans 1:1-4.
* From whom did Jesus come?
* How would you use this fact in a court of law to defend God’s Word and the miraculous nature of the birth of Christ?
1. Read Luke 1:26-28 and Matthew 2:23 (See NIV Study Bible note) and Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7.
* What fulfillment of prophecy is evident in these scriptures?
* How would you use this to defend the inerrancy and supernatural nature
of Scripture?

Wilbur Smith, who compiled a personal library of twenty-five volumes, concludes that…

whatever one may think of the authority of and the message presented in the book we
call the Bible, there is world-wide agreement that in more ways than one it is the most remarkable volume that has ever been produced in these some five thousand years of writing on the part of the human race.

It is the only volume ever produced by man, or a group of men, in which is to be found a large body of prophecies relating to individual nations, to Israel, to all the peoples of the earth, to certain cities, and to the coming of One who was to be the Messiah. The ancient world had many different devices for determining the future, known as divination, but not in the entire gamut of Greek and Latin literature, even though they used the words prophet and prophecy, can we find any real specific prophecy of a great historic event to come in the distant future, nor any prophecy of a Savior to arise in the human race…

Mohammedanism cannot point to any prophecies of the coming of Mohammed uttered hundreds of years before his birth. Neither can the founders of any cult in this country rightly identify any ancient text specifically foretelling their appearance.[[1]](#endnote-1)

1. How does the knowledge of fulfilled prophecy in the Bible affect your faith not only in the Word of God but in Jesus Christ who is the living Word (John 1:1-2, 14; Rom. 10:17)?
2. Read Luke 1:29-33. The favor of God!
3. Read 2 Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 66:2; and Luke 2:52.
4. Why do you think Mary found favor with God?
5. Read the below article from www.gotquestions.org!
* What is the favor of God, and how can we receive it?
* Read John 12:42-43 along with John 14:21-24 and Colossians 1:10. Do you desire the favor of God? If yes, then how do you plan to live the rest of your life to receive His favor and blessings? What is your game plan going forward? What steps will you take to please your heavenly Father?

The best definition of the word favor is “demonstrated delight.” The favor of God can be described as “tangible evidence that a person has the approval of the Lord.” When we favor someone, we want to be with him or her. We delight in him. We connect with her in a way we don’t connect with everyone. We usually favor people who also favor us. In the same way, God shows favor to the ones who delight in, connect with, and give honor to Him. Isaiah 66:2 says, “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.” Second Chronicles 16:9 says, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong on behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” To be “perfect” toward Him means we seek His favor more than we seek the favor of anyone else, even ourselves.

Favor is closely related to grace in the Bible. Those who have received Jesus as their Savior are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8–9). They know the favor of God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6), but those who have saving faith in God’s Son are declared righteous (Romans 4:5; Philippians 3:9) and live in God’s favor. The most basic answer to “how can I get God’s favor” is “believe in the Lord Jesus.”

God seeks out those who love Him and love His commands so that He can bless, guide, and protect them (Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 3:5–6). This does not mean that everyone who is prosperous or healthy has found favor with God (Jeremiah 12:1; Psalm 37:7; 73:16). Nor does it mean that those whom the Lord favors will never suffer difficulties. Many people in the Bible had the Lord’s favor but also suffered hardship (2 Corinthians 6:4; Acts 14:22; 20:23; 1 Peter 2:19). Heroes such as Noah (Genesis 6:8), Moses (Exodus 32:11; 33:13), Daniel (Daniel 10:19), and Mary (Luke 1:28) were favored of the Lord, but they also struggled with difficulties like anyone else.

Those who are favored of God know that God is with them and that nothing can happen to them apart from His good purpose (Romans 8:28). They have His ear as they walk through dark valleys (Psalm 34:15) and know that their struggle to remain true to Him will not go unrewarded (Matthew 10:42; Revelation 2:10). In addition to outward evidences, God’s favor can be felt in the spirit. When we have the favor of the Lord, we rest in quiet confidence that our sins are forgiven (Romans 4:7), we are within the plan of God (Psalm 86:11), and that He is there for us at all times (Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20). We walk with God as with our closest friend. We begin to see and appreciate the little blessings that God provides for our enjoyment—blessings that we once took for granted.

The Lord invites us to seek His favor (Psalm 119:58, 135; 2 Kings 13:4; Jeremiah 26:19; Zephaniah 2:3). When we seek His favor, we humble our hearts before Him (2 Kings 22:19); seek Him for Himself, not just for the blessings He gives (Jeremiah 29:13); and arrange our lives around loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27). We seek first His kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

One way to obtain favor from the Lord is to seek wisdom. Proverbs 8:35 says, “For those who find me [wisdom] find life and receive favor from the LORD.” Psalm 5:12 says, “Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.” Finding favor with the Lord keeps our lives and thoughts pure because we desire to please Him more than we desire to please ourselves. Hebrews 11:25 says of Moses, “He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.” When the same can be said of us, we know we have found favor with God. His delight in us will be demonstrated.[[2]](#endnote-2)

1. Read Luke 1:39-45. The importance of the life of the soul!
2. What do the following verses teach you regarding the issue of abortion?

 Genesis 1:26-27

 Genesis 2:7\*

 Genesis 9:5\*\*

 Psalm 51:5

 Psalm 139:13-17

 Jeremiah 1:4-5

 Luke 1:41-44

\* **Genesis 2:7**

*Then YHWH God formed man of dust from the ground, and blew into his nostrils the gasps of life; and man became a****living soul****(nefesh l’chaiya)****.[[3]](#endnote-3)***

***\*\* Genesis 9:5***

*YHWH: “And surely I will require the blood of your* ***souls****; at the hand of all the living I will require it. And at the hand of every man, and at the hand of his brother, I will require the* ***soul*** *of man.”[[4]](#endnote-4)*

1. If you have been responsible for an abortion, then know this: It is not the unpardonable sin! All sins are forgivable, except for the ongoing sin of unbelief.
Read 1 John 1:9. What should we do with any sin, including the sin of abortion?

For more insight regarding the forgiveness of God as it relates to the issue of abortion, click on this link to an excellent article. https://www.gotquestions.org/abortion-healing-recovery.html

Abortion healing and recovery is possible. Having an abortion and regretting it later is a common experience felt by women. While what has been done cannot be undone, you can experience healing and recovery after an abortion. The God of all comfort and healing is more than able to ease the sorrow and pain of an abortion. He can restore you to life
and joy.

An unwanted pregnancy can be a frightening experience for someone who is not financially, emotionally, or physically prepared for such a responsibility. Perhaps you are one of the many women and teenage girls who are scared, confused, and desperate. In your search for answers, perhaps you were fooled into believing that your unborn child was an expendable “lump of tissue,” not really a pre-born human being. Often the realization of the truth comes later, in the form of post-abortion stress syndrome, guilt, and depression. This is where abortion healing and recovery is essential.

There is good news for anyone who has had an abortion, and that is that God offers forgiveness to anyone who asks for it. Abortion healing and abortion recovery begin with accepting that forgiveness. Romans 3:22 says, “We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.” It is never too late to come to God for healing. There is nothing we can do that is so bad that it is unforgivable. God offers this forgiveness, through Christ, and with it He offers peace of mind and heart. Abortion recovery is yours if you will only receive it by putting your faith in Jesus, allowing Him permanent residence and authority in your life.

Perhaps you are already a Christian, yet you decided to have an abortion, perhaps out of fear of how you would be perceived by the Christian community. Even if you understood how God feels about abortion, you may have felt, out of desperation, that you must get rid of the “evidence.” Please understand that abortion recovery is available. God is ready to offer forgiveness, redemption, healing, and restoration. Yes, having an abortion was wrong; it was the taking of a life, but it is not unforgivable. The Bible says that there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1), and so, when we confess our sins to Him, He freely forgives (1 John 1:9). This is not because we deserve forgiveness but because of the loving nature of our Lord.

When you realize the repercussions of having an abortion, you may find it difficult to forgive yourself. But God does not want us to live with perpetual guilt; He wants us to learn from our mistakes and use them to His advantage, as well as our own. Abortion healing and recovery will provide freedom from guilt. It will require a lot of prayer, which is simply conversation with God. This and studying the Bible help us get to know God better so that we can trust Him to heal us and be better equipped to do His work. Instead of dwelling on your choice to have an abortion, be encouraged to use your experience to help others. You may need to seek Christian counseling to help get through the experience. But through the healing process, if you trust in the Lord, you will be stronger and more spiritually mature. You can experience abortion healing and abortion recovery! You will have gone through an experience that God is able to use to strengthen your character and prepare you for ministering to others.[[5]](#endnote-5)

1. Read Luke 1:46-56. The promises of God!
2. What key promise brings joy to your heart in this song of Mary? Why is this promise so important to you?
3. What key lessons have you learned from this lesson, and what changes in your life do you hope to implement?
1. Wilbur Smith as recorded in Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), 12. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.gotquestions.org/favor-of-God.html [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://hebrewwordlessons.com/2018/02/04/soul-defining-nefesh-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-soul/ [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. https://hebrewwordlessons.com/2018/02/04/soul-defining-nefesh-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-soul/ [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.gotquestions.org/abortion-healing-recovery.html [↑](#endnote-ref-5)