

Episode #4 - **Mary**

1. Have you ever lived in a town like Nazareth, the town that time passed by a great city like Sepphoris? What challenges to towns like that face?
2. Why do you think God chose a powerless teenager from a humble family from a town near nowhere?
3. How much power would a young woman like Mary have in culture? How would the circumstances of her pregnancy affect the level of influence she would have in her small town?
4. Read Luke 1: 46-55 and consider the power of Mary - humility, faithful to play an unknown and evolving role, and obedience to God. How are we called to live out this model of power, one of humble obedience? If you were Mary, how do you think you would have responded to the Angel? How did God “shake up” Mary’s life?
5. In the video it is said, “Many people still name their daughter’s Mary, but now one even names their dog Herod.” How is Mary’s power different from that of Herod and how has her power long-outlasted that of Herod?
6. Read Luke 2: 16-20. What things do you think Mary “treasured” and “pondered?”
7. Read Luke 2: 21-43. When a child is born, there are many trips to the temple, especially for a first-born male child. Circumcision at the temple at eight days, purification ceremony for the mother at forty days, and later bar mitzvah for boys at twelve years. If you were Mary and Joseph, what would Simeon and Anna’s action have meant?
8. How do you think you would have parented your child if you perceived he was the Messiah of God? Would you have treated him differently?
9. Considering Leviticus 12:8, what is the significance of the sacrifice at the temple being “two turtle doves?” Why do you think Luke includes this tidbit of information?