



John 3:16a

"God so loved the world he gave..."

"It's not just that God gave us His Son, it's how he gave us His Son."

Luke 1:26-31 (ICB)

During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you." But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?" The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus."

Luke 2:5 (ICB)

Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.)

Luke 2:6,7 (ICB)

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

The Surprising Gifts of Love this Christmas:



1 Jesus experienced more hurt than I'll ever face.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ICB)

We have a great high priest who has gone into heaven. He is Jesus the Son of God. So let us hold on to the faith we have. For our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he did not sin. Let us, then, feel free to come before God's throne. Here there is grace. And we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it.



2 Jesus cares more for me than I could ever imagine.

Philippians 2:5-8 (MSG)

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.



3 Jesus can do more than I realize.

Matthew 19:26 (ICB)

Jesus looked at them and said, "For men this is impossible. But for God all things are possible."

Luke 1:46-50 (NIV)

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation."

Jesus surprises us when we:

- Ask him for help
- Acknowledge my own weaknesses
- Act in faith

Hebrews 11:6 (ICB)

Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him.

December 16-17, 2017

Christmas is... Love

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 **2** Jesus _____ more for _____ than I could ever _____.

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 **3** Jesus can _____ more than I _____.

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