Life lessons from Mary (mother of Jesus)

Various scriptures

“I am the Lord’s servant, may everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her. -Luke 1:38 NLT

We all in some way, shape or form have interest, desires and goals we set out to accomplish in our lifetime. While some involve helping and supporting others, for the most part we make plans for ourselves. In the process of living our lives, whether it be helping others or doing for self, where and how does the Lord fit into our schedules? Is there room for God to interrupt and rearrange your plans? How would you respond if God suddenly chose you for a special assignment? As we continue our study of women in the Bible, we learn a valuable lesson from Mary, the mother of Jesus, about availability and allowing God to use us whenever and however He pleases. Are you available?

Did you know?
* Mary in Greek is equivalent to Miriam in Hebrew; Jesus is equivalent to _____________
* Personal name meaning: “bitter”, “God’s gift”, “beloved” or “defiant”
* She was a ____________ when she gave birth to Jesus
* She lived in the town of ______________
* She was the wife of ______________
* She was God’s chosen vessel, a recipient of His grace not a _____________
* Her story is told throughout the Gospels and in Acts 1:14

The Seven words of Mary and her Experience

Mary’s Encounter: Luke 1:26-38; 3 words
The Bible tells us the Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel. In this greeting Gabriel announces ____________, you are ____________ __________ and blessed among women.

Some Catholics view this phrase in scripture as a prayer of praise for and petition to the blessed virgin Mary. They also close prayer with an appeal for her intercession.

_Hail;_ Greek (Chairo) greeting meaning to rejoice as a result of God’s grace.
_Highly favored;_ Greek (Charitoo) to be or make acceptable, not showing favor towards someone but _giving_ grace; endow with grace.

Cross Reference: Ephesians 1:3-6

This favor was not the result of anything she did, but it was all God’s design in selecting her to be the mother of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

After Gabriel greets Mary, the angel then proceeds to tell her....
* Don’t be afraid           * You’ve found favor with God           * You will have a Son
* Call Him Jesus           * He will be great           * Son of the Highest
In response to all of this Mary asks, ______________ can this be, since I do not know a man?

As you consider these two responses to Gabriel’s announcement from God, why do you think Zacharias was treated differently than Mary? How does this encourage you when the Lord reveals His will in our lives?

Responding to her question, Gabriel says, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you...

Can you imagine how Mary must have felt? What challenges do you think she faced in her culture?
* ______________ motherhood * accused of __________________
* subject to death by stoning

Despite those challenges, Mary replies, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.”

In reflecting on Mary’s reply, in light of God’s grace, she called herself a __________ and then said ___________. What can we do today to remind ourselves that we too are just servants of God? Why do you think it is so difficult for people to say yes when God calls?

After Mary left the angel she visited with Elizabeth. It was at this visit that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and encouraged her further by telling her she was blessed and it was the Lord who had chosen to use her. She was able to see God doing an impossible miracle in their old age thus lifting her confidence in what Gabriel had just shared.

Mary’s song of praise to the Lord
When you read this song notice some of the words are echoed from Old Testament passages like Hannah’s prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and other covenant promises of God. No doubt Mary knew the God of Israel and the ______________ of His word.

*God is God: In Luke 1:46-47 Mary celebrates God’s goodness.

*God is faithful: In Luke 1:48-50 Mary testifies of God’s faithfulness.
*God is powerful: In Luke 1:51-55 Mary glorifies God’s power.

Mary’s song should remind us all of the futility of trusting in ____________, politics or riches, but to trust in God. Most importantly when we trust in God we will be rewarded.

**As we reflect on this wonderful song, what are your thoughts about giving God praise?**  Considering the fact that God chose you, and lavished His grace upon you do you think it is over the top?  Why or why not?

__________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Another moment of excitement came to Mary and Joseph after Jesus grew older. This time they were celebrating the Passover. The Bible tells us Jesus was _______ years old. Apparently, He had lingered behind in Jerusalem but Joseph and Mary did not know, thus leaving him behind.

After traveling a day’s journey, they looked for him but could not find him. Finally, they go back to Jerusalem after 3 days they see him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers listening and asking questions.

What did Mary say? “Son, why have you done this to us?  Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.”

**Sometimes we too can get in a hurry or caught up in the routines of life and forget about our relationship with Jesus.**  Instead of blaming God, what 3 actions are you willing to take to ensure you have a conscious awareness of God’s will and word in your heart at all times?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

**Mary’s Entrusting John 2:1-10; 2 words**

The last 2 words of Mary bring us to a fully grown adult man in the person of Jesus Christ. Accompanied with His disciples, we see Him at a wedding celebration in Cana of Galilee.  One thing leads to another and the host runs out of wine.  Mary tells Jesus, “They have no wine.”

Jesus responds, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me?  My hour has not yet come.”  Mary then says to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

This was Jesus’ first public miracle, but it was not announced.  Here is why.  The phrase, “My hour has not yet come, means it was not time for Him to publicly manifest His supernatural activity for all to see.  This is why He solved the problem
in verses 6-7 without advertising His identity. Many see this sign as the old covenant (law) fading away and the new covenant (grace) coming into fruition.

In keeping with the focus of highlighting our example, Mary here demonstrates her trust in Jesus by telling Him and encouraging others to follow His commands. To entrust means to put something into someone’s __________ or protection.

**How often do you tell Jesus about your problems?**

**What are some things that hold you back from telling others to do whatever Jesus says?**  Can you think of 1 action you can take to overcome this?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

As you reflect on this study, what is one lesson that you are willing to share with someone else?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

“God does not ask about our ability or our inability, but our availability.”