

Journey OF Faith

Mary

Mrs. Evans said that the next RCIA class would be “parents day” for moms and dads to see what they were learning.

“But I don’t live with my mom,” Lisa said, confiding in Tomás. “I have a stepmom instead.”

“My grandmother takes care of me,” Tomás said.

Mrs. Evans overheard them. “That’s OK,” she said. “Lots of different people can be our mothers. In fact, you even have a special mother in heaven. Her name is Mary.”



Mothers Are Special

Being a mother is a special job. Sometimes our "mother" isn't our biological mom. Or we might be "mothered" by our mom and other people. Fathers, grandmothers, aunts, big sisters, or even our friends' moms can be like our mother. Mothers are people who take care of you and love you. You can go to them when you need them.

We learn about Jesus' mother, Mary, in the Bible. Mary was the young girl God selected to be the Mother of God on earth. Each Bible story about Mary tells us something special about her.

Prayerful

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. "Hail Mary," Gabriel said. "You are truly blessed."



Gabriel could tell that Mary was afraid. "Don't be afraid," he said. "God loves you very much. You will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be called the Son of God." Mary was confused. "How can I have a baby? I'm not yet living with my husband," she said. The angel told her, "Nothing is impossible for God."

Mary loved God very much. "Let it happen as you have said," Mary said in agreement.

Read more about the angel's visit in Luke 1:26–38.



How do you think Mary felt when the angel came to visit her?

How would you feel?

Helpful

The angel also told Mary her relative Elizabeth would be having a baby boy, too. Mary knew Elizabeth would need her help. So Mary went to visit Elizabeth and stayed with her for three months.

In Luke 1:39–56, read about Mary's visit to Elizabeth.



What can you do to be helpful like Mary?

Humble

Just before Jesus was born, Mary went with Joseph, her husband, to Bethlehem for the census. This was because the king wanted to know how many people lived in his kingdom and where they lived. Going to Bethlehem was a long and difficult journey for Mary.

There was no place for them to stay in Bethlehem, so Mary gave birth to her baby in a stable for animals. Mary didn't mind. She was so happy to hold Jesus for the first time.

Read about humility in Luke 2:1–21.



Do you think it was hard for Mary to have her baby in a stable? Why?



Brave

When Jesus was born, an angel appeared to Joseph. The angel told him the baby was in danger. King Herod was afraid Jesus would grow up and take away his kingdom. So King Herod wanted to kill Jesus.

The angel told Joseph to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt. Mary and Joseph had never been to Egypt before. But they trusted God. So Joseph, Mary, and Jesus went to Egypt and stayed there until God told them it was safe to go home.

Read about their bravery in Matthew 2.



Have you ever moved to a new place? Was it scary?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about leaving home?

Caring

As Jesus grew up, he did a lot of things with his mom. Once, at a wedding in Cana, Mary saw that the wedding party had run out of wine. She was sad that their celebration would be ruined. She told Jesus about the problem.

Jesus took six stone jars filled with water and blessed them. The water became wine. Everyone was amazed. Jesus performed this first miracle because Mary cared so much.

Read about the miracle in John 2:1–12.



Have you ever done something because someone believed in you?

Faithful

After Jesus died on the cross, his disciples were scared. They were worried people would want to kill them, too. So they ran away. But Mary didn't run away. Mary stayed by Jesus. She didn't leave him even though it was hard for her to watch him die. Jesus loved his mother, too. He asked his "beloved disciple" to take care of her.

Read about faithfulness in John 19:25–27.



Do you think you would have stayed by Jesus?

Mary in Heaven

Today Mary is in heaven with Jesus. She watches over all of God's children just like she watched over Jesus. Mary watches over us by listening to our prayers and sharing our prayers with God. Anytime you need help, you can ask Mary to pray for you and look out for you.

When we pray to Mary, we aren't worshipping her. We only worship God. We pray to Mary because she is very close to God. We honor Mary for the life she lived and because she was Jesus' mother. We try to imitate Mary because she lived her life so close to God, and we want to be close to God, too.





WHAT MAKES A MOTHER?

The words below describe a mother. Unscramble each word and then unscramble the starred letters to solve for the hidden word.

LUFFATHI

EBARV



LHEPLUF

MUHLBE



ACRGNI



YARREPLUF



The hidden word is:

In Short

- Mary is the Mother of God and our Mother.
- Mary and Jesus share a strong connection.
- Mary's different titles share who she is to us.



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The process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic faith throughout the United States is now called the OCIA—the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. "Order" is a clearer translation of the Latin term for the process formerly known as the RCIA—the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. People preparing for baptism and reception into the Church celebrate several rites as part of the order to which those rites belong—an order whose mission is to journey in the faith. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted the name change in 2021, with American dioceses introducing the name thereafter. For more information, please contact your local diocese.

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