

You can be certain

Luke 1: 26-38 Certain... that Jesus was miraculously conceived

1. What is it about the account of the virgin birth, that some not-yet-Christians simply find one step too far in what Christians believe? Among all the amazing things we believe, why does *this* issue seem to particularly annoy the atheist?

The virgin birth Read Luke 1:30-35

2. How will Mary conceive and give birth to a son when still a virgin? See also Matthew 1:18-20.
3. How does Gabriel assure Mary that this is not a problem for God? (see vv36-37)
4. How do you respond to someone who you understand to be a Christian, who says to you, “well, I don’t think you can believe everything in the Bible, and I have real trouble with the virgin birth”?
5. BONUS THEOLOGICAL QUESTION: What other aspects of Christian teaching are dependent on the doctrine of the virgin birth? (*Leaders, refer to the sermon and please check with Mark if you need some guidance here.*)

Mary Read Luke 1:34-38

6. The impact regarding this news on a young teenager must have been significant. What lessons/encouragements are there from Mary’s response to Gabriel’s announcement?
7. Share a time in your life or an experience where you were called on to trust the Lord and surrender to his plans for you though the way was hard? How did you learn to do that?
8. BONUS CHURCH HISTORY QUESTION: Some parts of the church teach that Mary remained a virgin; that we can and should pray to her, and that she is to be worshipped and adored as an ‘immaculate’ (i.e. sinless) ‘co-redeemer’ with Jesus. Why don’t WE see Mary this way?

Jesus Read again vv30-35

9. What is the significance of the name Mary is to give to Jesus? See also Matthew 1:21.
 10. What is God actually doing in the birth of this child?
 11. BONUS BIBLICAL QUESTION: What is the significance of this baby to be born being promised the throne of his father David, and that his kingdom will never end? (See eg 2 Samuel 7:12 in context and Isaiah 9:1-7 – or just 6-7.)
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12. What has been new for you in this study: perhaps something new you’ve learnt, something new you want to learn more about, perhaps something new you want to implement in your life?

Please pray that we’ll increasingly feel able to defend the doctrine of the virgin birth (or miraculous conception), understanding its significance historically, theologically and Biblically. Pray that we will have Mary’s humility, trusting in God’s plans and surrendering to his will. And pray we’ll love Jesus all the more as we understand the significance of his coming into our world.