

Mary, Did You Know?

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:19-20

No other holiday has as many songs associated with it as Christmas. Take a moment to think of one of your favorite Christmas songs. Give the title and tell why it is special to you.

Background: Our study this year will be drawn from Mark Lowry's song titled "Mary, Did You Know?" His lyric was the outcome of a bunch of questions that Mark had been pondering since childhood. Yet it wasn't until years after penning his questions that Mark asked Buddy Greene to put them to music. The result was the song we know today. Take a moment to read through the lyrics printed below. On the next pages, we will turn our attention to God's revelation of Himself to us, His beloved creation.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear and the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM.

Our Holy God created us to have fellowship with Him forever. However our sin broke that fellowship and caused us to be separated from God. From the time sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden, God launched a plan to restore that fellowship by giving us eternal life through His Son Jesus. The Bible is largely a story of God's **revelation** of Himself to us, His wayward creation. The better we know God the more we are drawn to Him.

What Did Mary Already Know?

As a young Jewish girl, Mary would have been familiar with the Old Testament stories and prophecies which chronicled God's interaction with her ancestors. Let's review one such story to learn what Mary would already have known about the God of our salvation.

1. Please read about Moses' exchange with God in Exodus 33:12 – 34:9.
 - a. Reread 33:13 and 18 and note Moses' requests.

 - b. Reread 34:6-7 and note what Moses learned about God's character.

2. Like a good mystery writer, God gave His people clues about what was to come. Read the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 7:14 which reveals part of God's plan to restore broken fellowship. What was foretold? What would the Child be called and what does His name mean? (See also Matthew 1:23.)

What Did Mary Learn?

The time came for God's prophecy about a virgin birth to be fulfilled. Please read about Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-38.

- 3 a. In verse 30 what did the angel tell Mary about God's view of her?
 - b. Read the following verses to learn how God views you and me. Romans 5:8; 8:37-39; John 15:9; Ephesians 3:16-19. What do these verses tell you?

 - c. Look again at Mary's response in Luke 1:38. To whom and to what did she willingly submit? How did her knowledge of God impact her response?

 - d. If you had been in Mary's place, how do you think you might have responded? What do you want to remember from Mary's example?

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19

Mary *treasured up* in her memory every circumstance of her Son's birth. Every new circumstance she *pondered* or compared with what had already been revealed in order to learn all she could about the nature and mission of her Son. Let's verify the occurrence of some new circumstances that Mark Lowry addresses in his song. Please complete the chart following the example of the first one which has been completed for you.

SONG PHRASE Mary, did you know that your baby boy...	SCRIPTURE	SCRIPTURE PHRASE
will one day walk on water?	Matthew 14:25	Jesus went out to His disciples walking on the sea...
will save our sons and daughters?	John 12:47	
has come to make you new? The child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.	2 Corinthians 5:17 Galatians 1:4	
will give sight to a blind man?	Luke 18:41-43	
will calm a storm with his hand?	Matthew 8:26	
has walked where angels trod?	John 6:38	
{ The blind will SEE The deaf will HEAR The dead will live again The lame will LEAP The dumb will SPEAK }	{ Luke 4:17-21 Acts 10:38 Matthew 4:23 Matthew 15:29-31 }	
is the Lord of all creation?	Colossians 1:16-17	
will one day rule the nations?	Luke 1:30-33	
is heaven's perfect Lamb?	John 1:29	
is the great I AM?	John 8:58 John 14:6	

The LORD has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations. Psalm 98:2

4. Like Mary, we have opportunity to ponder the nature and mission of Jesus as revealed in the passages above. What revelations of God do you treasure in your heart?

Mary's Response

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

Mary, did you know? Did you REALLY know? How could Mary have possibly known the height and depth and length and breadth of her Lord's love for her personally, as well as for all mankind? How can you and I begin to fathom the magnitude of God's amazing, boundless love? Perhaps it begins with a response to what we do know. Let's look at Mary's response.

5. Shortly after Gabriel's visit to Mary, she left her home to visit Elizabeth. Please read Luke 1:45-55.
 - a. From verse 45 why did Elizabeth say Mary was blessed?

 - b. What was it that Mary did in verses 46-55 that blessed her Lord and Elizabeth?

 - c. As we first *believe*, then give *praise* to the Lord, our belief and praise impact others. As you reflect on Mary's Magnificat recorded in these verses, what phrases especially impact your heart? Tell why.

Our Response

*So let my whole life be reflecting Christ in me; a temple that will sing the greatness of the King.
Steve Fee, Vicky Beeching*

6. Throughout this Christmas season, you and I will have opportunity to both worship God and **reveal** His nature and mission as we interact with others. Write a prayer including praise that we know the Great I AM with whom nothing is impossible! Thank Him for the joy that is ours as we purpose daily to adore Him and reflect His glory. He is our Immanuel – God with us!