

LUKE 1:26-38

10 SEPTEMBER 2023

ICE BREAKER: Who is someone you trust because they keep their word?

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

In his national TV show “Larry King Live”, the late **Larry King** interviewed heads of states, religious leaders and superstars around the world. He, who questioned the most influential, powerful and admired was once questioned himself, “Larry, if you could find an answer to any question, what would that question be?”

Larry King, himself a Jew, replied, “I would like to know if the **Virgin Birth** is true? That would determine everything for me.”

1. Why would **someone** who has **interviewed the most influential** and **powerful** consider the **Virgin Birth** the **most important matter** to consider?

(Read verses 30-35) Atheists reject the Virgin Birth as myth. Mormons also do not consider the Virgin Birth a miracle, but believe it as a normal physical event. God the Father simply had physical intercourse with Mary. The Mormon Prophet Brigham Young stated, “The birth of the Savior was as natural as the births of our children; it was the result of natural action.” (Journal of Discourses 8:115)

On the other hand, Muslims consider the Virgin Birth true, but to believe Jesus is the Son of God is blasphemous. The Quran states, “Far is it removed from His transcendent majesty that He should have a son.” (Surah 4:171). Therefore, Islam teaches Jesus was not conceived by the Holy Spirit, but by the angel Gabriel.

2. What is **revealing** to you on how **religions** and **worldviews** change the account of Jesus’ Virgin Birth?

The Virgin Birth testifies to a **God** who **keeps His promise**. Isaiah prophesied 800 years before Jesus’ birth, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The **virgin** will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**.” (Isaiah 7:14) Isaiah’s prophecy did not point to a child of human origin, but whose origin is from God Himself. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Through the prophet Micah, God kept his promise that this divine child would be born in Bethlehem. “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come from me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose **origins** are from of old, **from ancient times**.” (Micah 5:2) The fulfilled prophecies of Jesus’ Virgin Birth remind us God moves time and eternity to keep His word to His people.

3. How can **connecting the Virgin Birth with God’s faithfulness**, to **keep His promises**, deepen your **faith**?

(Read verse 34-37) Since Mary was a virgin, she **questioned** the possibility of her giving birth. In response, the angel Gabriel pointed to the **Holy Spirit’s power** to enable birth within her, a **virgin**, and within her cousin Elizabeth, a **barren** woman. Both their pregnancies would point to this wonderful fact—“For **nothing** is **impossible** with God.” Whenever we forget or doubt **God’s power**, we can simply recount the Virgin Birth.

4. What area in your life do **you need** to hear again, ‘For **Nothing is Impossible with God**’?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)
