

### **Mary the kind of person that God delights to use**

1. Historians believe that Mary would have been in her early teenage years, most likely 12-14 when she had the encounter with the angel (if she was older she would have already been married rather than betrothed). **How old did you imagine that she would be? Does this change your mental picture of her?**
2. Photos of Mary often include a halo and make her look like a saint. **How do you think that she really looked.**
3. Discuss the misbelief and subsequent persecution Mary must have endured as a response to her explanation for her pregnancy. **How would you react if it was your daughter?**
4. Joseph was turned away from one inn after another as Mary's birth pains grew. Not long after Jesus was born the family had to flee to Egypt. We often expect the best of treatment in our work for God. Is this realistic? Discuss
5. The genealogy of Jesus In Mat 1:1-16 goes all the way back to God's promise to Abraham. Discuss the only 4 mothers that are mentioned. **What des this tell you about God's character and grace?**
6. God often uses the weak and the foolish to advance His kingdom, **give some biblical and real life examples** of people of brokenness and humility who cooperated with God's eternal values and were greatly used by God.
7. The proud religious leaders were completely blind to who Jesus really was. They expected a white stallion, rather than a little donkey, to carry their Messiah. Can anyone recount a **situation where your expectations made you blind to the reality of a situation**
8. Mary must have frequently wondered "Why me?" Isn't that what most of us do when life is different to what we expect?
9. We hear a lot about Jesus' birth, but then very little about his life before his ministry began at the age of 30. We expect everything to happen all at once but we may find ourselves left on the shelf for longer than we expect. **Give some biblical examples and share some personal experiences.**
10. The length of por lives can be divided into three relatively even sections. How would you define each of these sections? **In what sector of your life do you expect to be the most productive? Discuss. Cite examples of people you know.**
11. **Luke 1:46** "*My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*"  
Mary was so good, so kind, so godly, so strong, so amazing...that God chose her to be the mother of His Son. So how could she possibly need a Saviour? Do we need to convince people that *all have sinned and need a saviour*, or do they instinctively know that?