



“Mary, Full of Grace”  
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**The Announcement:  
God Will Come In-Person  
Luke 1:26-28, 39-42 (NCB)**

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.”*

*In those days, Mary set out and journeyed in haste into the hill country to a town of Judah where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”*

**The Ave Maria or Hail Mary prayer**

“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

- The first two phrases are directly from the Gospel of Luke.
- By 2<sup>nd</sup> century, it was part of the liturgy of the church.
- By 1000 A.D., it was a way of offering devotion to Mary.
- By 1500 A.D., the final phrase was added, but now found in the gospels.

**History behind the “Annunciation” story in Luke 1**

- “Annunciation” means \_\_\_\_\_.
- The angel Gabriel appears to a 12/13-year-old girl named Mary and announces that she has been chosen by God to bear His Son.
- **Nazareth:** a very small, poor village with a population of about 100 people who lived in caves cut into the limestone hills.
- **Angel Gabriel:** Name means \_\_\_\_\_.

**Gabriel says to Mary:**

*“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women.”*

Luke 1:28 (NCB)

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.*

Luke 1:29 (NKJV)

**What does Gabriel’s greeting to Mary teach us?**

“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.”

- “Hail” is an old English word for \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Latin word for “greetings” is \_\_\_\_\_.

Once Gabriel greets Mary, he gives her a descriptive phrase: **“full of grace”**

**What does it mean to be “full of grace?”**

**“Grace” means:**

- Giving love when it is not deserved or earned
- Showing kindness and expecting nothing in return
- Forgiving someone who has wronged you even though you have the right to retaliate

Being “full of grace” demonstrates:

kindness, care, love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness

In other words, being full of grace is living your life in a way that demonstrates that you:

**Love God, Love Others, and Live Out the Gospel Life**

**Get This:**

God has a tendency to use \_\_\_\_\_.

God blesses them, calls them,  
and uses them for remarkable things.

Are you “full of grace?”  
Can the same be said of you?

**The rest of the story:**

Mary leaves Nazareth and goes to the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah. Elizabeth is probably Mary’s cousin. She is much older than Mary; probably in her early 50’s. Elizabeth is six months pregnant with her first child (John, the Baptist), and he was also announced by Gabriel.

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"*

Luke 1:41-42 (NCB)

To pray for a "blessing" can be a very dangerous thing to do!  
"The piercing truth is that God does not choose a person for ease and comfort and selfish joy, but for a task that will take all that the head and heart and hand can bring to it."

--William Barclay

**GET THIS:**

Often there is a \_\_\_\_\_ that comes with a blessing.

God never blesses you in order for you to hold on to it and hoard that blessing.

God's blessing requires something of you.  
God has an expectation of you.

**ANSWER KEY:**

"Annunciation" means **ANNOUNCEMENT.**

Angel Gabriel: Name means **MIGHTY ONE OF GOD.**

"Hail" is an old English word for **HELLO or GREETINGS.**

The Latin word for "greetings" is **"AVE."**

God has a tendency to use **GRACE-FILLED PEOPLE.**

Often there is a **BURDEN** that comes with a blessing.