

# Senses of Scripture and the Annunciation

## Scripture Passage: Announcement of the Birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26–38)

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Exploring the Literal Sense

1. Who are the main characters in this story?
2. Why is it important that God sent an angel?
3. What is being asked of Mary?
4. In what sense is David the baby's father?



5. What is the meaning of *handmaid*

6. How would you explain the basic meaning of this story to someone else?

## Exploring the Spiritual Sense

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

2. What does this passage teach us about God's plan of salvation?

3. What spiritual virtue does Mary demonstrate in this story?

## Exploring the Allegorical Sense

1. What does the miraculous way that Jesus is conceived tell us about his identity?

2. What do the different titles the angel applies to Jesus tell us about his identity mission?



## Exploring the Moral Sense

1. Do the characters presented model a life in right relationship with God? Explain.
  
2. What might this teach me about how to live my life?

## Exploring the Anagogical Sense

1. In what way does the story direct us toward our future heavenly home?
  
2. How does God reveal himself to us through this story here and now?

