

## **“The Miracles of Christmas: God’s Grace”**

by  
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- What** Mary and Elizabeth share their concerns about becoming new mothers, and Elizabeth reminds Mary of God’s sufficient grace.
- Themes:** Incarnation, Grace, Trust, Mothers, Motherhood, Christmas
- Who** Mary, the Mother of Jesus  
Elizabeth
- When** This duo is set while Mary is visiting her cousin, Elizabeth. Mary is pregnant with Jesus and Elizabeth is pregnant with John the Baptist.
- Wear (Props)** Mary and Elizabeth can both be dressed in traditional biblical costume or in casual modern clothes.  
Both of these women are expecting, so your performers can use props to mimic pregnancy, but it’s not absolutely necessary. The audience will catch on to that fact from the conversation. Also, Elizabeth is busy kneading dough when Mary walks in, so have a table and some bowls, a small pitcher of water, dough and flour, and a hand towel for your performers to use. You also need two chairs.
- Why** Luke 1:39-56; 2 Corinthians 12:9
- How** This should be a casual conversation. These two women are cousins, but Mary (who was most likely a teenager at this time) is much younger than Elizabeth and sees her as a source of experience and wisdom.
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*Lights Up.*

*Center Stage: Elizabeth stands at a table, kneading dough. She takes turns sprinkling flour and adding water to the dough in bowls. She hums while she works. To one side of the table are two chairs.*

*Mary enters from SL and joins her cousin.*

**Mary:** Morning!

**Elizabeth:** Oh, good morning! Did you sleep well?

**Mary:** Better than yesterday. And you?

**Elizabeth:** Another spell of morning sickness, I'm afraid. Poor Zechariah... I told him that I would sleep in here if it would help not to wake him in the middle of the night, but he wouldn't hear of it.

**Mary:** Is he...

**Elizabeth:** Speaking yet? No. But I'm trusting that God will return his voice in His good time. The Lord has always taken care of us, Mary. And in the meantime, *(she leans in and lowers her voice to Mary)* I'd be lying if I said I wasn't enjoying the quiet around here.

*Elizabeth and Mary smile, then Elizabeth hands Mary a bowl and the pitcher of water.*

**Elizabeth:** Here. I'm going to let you finish.

*Elizabeth rubs her stomach and wipes her hands with the towel.*

**Elizabeth:** This little one's getting restless. I'm going to sit for a while.

*As Elizabeth sits in one of the chairs, Mary begins taking over her work.*

**Mary:** Elizabeth, what do you think will happen to me?

**Elizabeth:** Whatever do you mean, child?

**Mary:** Well, I guess I'm just nervous about being a mother. I have no idea what to expect when my son arrives... I've never done this before. How do I take care of a baby? Let alone this baby!

**Elizabeth:** Oh Mary, don't you think that God knows what He's doing?

**Mary:** Yes, I do, of course I do. I just... I still don't understand why He chose me to be the mother of Jesus.

*Mary wipes her hands on the towel and comes to sit beside Elizabeth.*

**Elizabeth:** I never expected to have a child either at my age, but sometimes God delivers blessings in ways we don't expect or understand. When He begins a good thing, He'll see it through. God wouldn't give you such a great responsibility and then leave you all alone without His grace or His guidance!

**Mary:** I know what you say is true. But I guess my fears run away with me sometimes. After the angel came to me, all I could think of was how my family and intended husband would react. Would they believe me? Make me leave Nazareth? Abandon me?

**Elizabeth:** Part of God's grace is making a way where there is no way. I'm still trusting that God will make a way for Zechariah. I want this child to hear his father's voice. *(beat)* Let's ask God right now to continue to show grace to us.

**Mary:** Okay. I'll start.

*Mary helps Elizabeth as they both get down on their knees and pray.*

**Mary:** Lord, Elizabeth and I are facing the unknown. You have blessed us both with gifts we never expected, and honestly, God, we feel a bit unprepared.

**Elizabeth:** But we have seen your faithfulness, Lord, and we know your grace will go before us and prepare the way.

**Mary:** Be with Elizabeth as she becomes a mother, and return Zechariah's voice to him, Lord, so he can bless his wife and child.

**Elizabeth:** And give Mary wisdom as she loves and cares for her Son...Your Son, Lord.

*Pause.*

*Mary is overwhelmed by the responsibility and takes a deep breath, on the verge of tears. Both women feel the weight of all that is coming to be. Elizabeth embraces Mary...*

**Mary:** Amen.

**Elizabeth:** Amen.

*Lights Out.*