

# DAY 1: Time for seclusion and support

## – Mary and Elizabeth

*“But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”* Luke 1:43

When we read the Christmas story, it's evident there was a strong mentoring relationship between Elizabeth and Mary. Naturally then, Mary went to Elizabeth for support after the life changing news she had received from the angel.

The angel told Mary her cousin Elizabeth in her old age and said to be barren was pregnant, her long awaited miracle! Mary needed confirmation. She needed to be encouraged and guided. Elizabeth was the perfect choice, not only because she was mature and pregnant herself, but because she was a spirit filled woman. We are told that Elizabeth remained in seclusion for five months after becoming pregnant. Was it to privately savor God's gift of life within her? Was it to prepare spiritually for the encounter blessing when she saw Mary?

Elizabeth was someone Mary could trust completely. Just by seeing each other, Elizabeth's greeting confirmed Mary's heart. For the next three months, they comforted each other, and Mary prepared for what was to come when it was her time to give birth to the awaited redeemer!

Mary's confirmation didn't mean she would not face challenges. But the support she got from Elizabeth helped her to gain the right perspective for what was to come. We can all benefit from living life and its challenges with the right godly perspective.

Take time this season to be secluded with purpose, exploring the miracle of Jesus' birth and what it means to you personally. If you don't have an Elizabeth in your life, pray that

God will show you that person that will help you walk God's plan for you for the redemption of the world, with courage and joy. Like Mary, you will be able to rejoice with a song of praise despite the challenges that may come (Luke 1:46–55).

Christmas starts with Christ and thus, is always a time to rejoice. Sing today's carol with joy and gratitude for the supporters in your life!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



HARK! the herald angels sing:  
Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! The herald angels sing:  
Glory to the newborn king.

Christ, by the highest Heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord.  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the Heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.