

How do we distort the Christmas story?

1. The wise men were not at the manger.
2. The wise men were not dressed in color coordinating robes.
3. The wise men were not kings.
4. The Bible never says there were three wise men.

Our Theme

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. Luke 2:15–17 (ESV)

1. See the true Christmas story.
2. Tell our friends and community the Christmas story.

Background

Nazareth

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ... Luke 1:26 (ESV)

Can anything good come out of Nazareth? John 1:46 (ESV)

...to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. Luke 1:27 (ESV)

Mary

Joseph

Betrothal

Gabriel's Message

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Luke 1:28–30 (ESV)

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:31–33 (ESV)

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 2 Samuel 7:12–13 (ESV)

'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah Psalm 89:4 (ESV)

Mary's Question

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" Luke 1:34 (ESV)

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

It is ok to trust God and still have questions.

And the angel answered her, "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, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:35–37 (ESV)

Mary's Response

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:38 (ESV)

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." Matthew 26:39 (ESV)

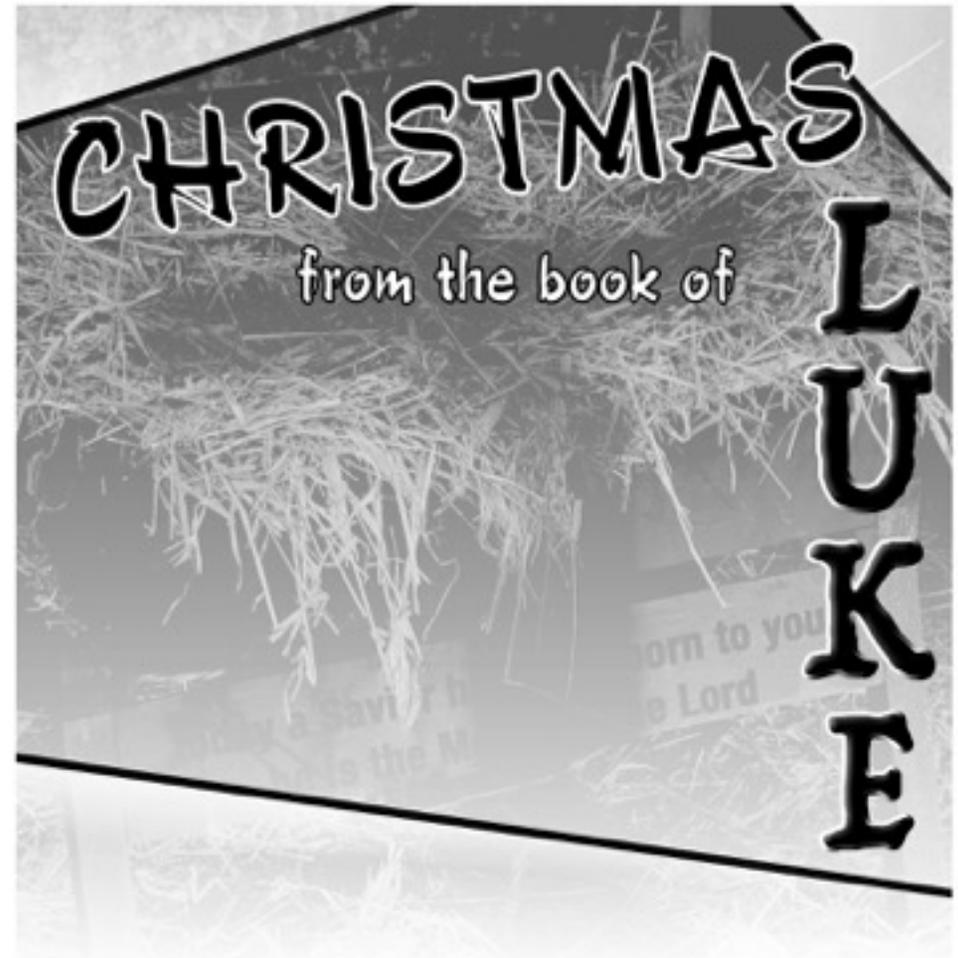
What should I do when God changes my plans?

How do we distort Mary's story?

1. Mary's mother was not a virgin.
2. Mary was not a perpetual virgin.
3. Mary can not save you.
4. Mary can not answer your prayers.

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

5. Mary's story must be true.



Mary — What Should I Do When God Changes My Plans?



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