



Called by Name
ISAIAH 43:1

*But the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary.
God is very pleased with you.”
—Luke 1:30 NIrV*

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New Testament Devotion

Mary: Called to Serve

Fear is a scary feeling. Sometimes we can be afraid of something small like a spider or a mouse. Even though we are bigger than what we are afraid of, we still feel fear. Other times we can be afraid of big things like fires, heights or the ocean. Those things may be bigger than we are, but there are ways we can protect ourselves from those things.

- **What is something you are afraid of?**
- **How do you face that fear?**

Mary was afraid when she saw God’s angel. Imagine seeing an angel of the Lord in front of us right now! It could be a very exciting thing to experience, but it could also be scary. Mary felt fear when she saw the angel.

- **What do you think it would be like to see an angel of God? How would you feel?**

The angel knew Mary was afraid, so he called her by name. (Reread the Bible verse.) The angel called Mary by her name to calm her fears and help her understand how she was to serve God. Just like the angel knew Mary’s name, God knows each of our names. He knows everything about us and knows how we should serve him.

- **What helps calm you down when you are afraid?**
- **When you are afraid, who calls you by name to bring you comfort?**

After the angel called Mary by name, he told her God was pleased with her. God knew everything about Mary and was happy with how she was living her life. God knew Mary, just like God knows us. He knows what brings us joy, and he knows what makes us afraid. He sends people into our lives to help us when we are afraid or troubled. God sends people into our lives who know our names and love us. God sends people into our lives who remind us God loves us and is with us always. God helps us serve others, too.

- **Who helps remind you of God’s love and that he is always with you?**
- **Who do you remind of God’s love and that he is always with them?**
- **What are some ways you can serve God by showing his love to others?**

God loves us very much, and gave his Son Jesus to die on the cross and save us from our sins. God wants us to serve him by telling others about this great love. Just as Mary willingly followed God’s plan for her life, we also should follow God’s plan for us. We are called to serve God. We do not need to be afraid. God knows our name; we belong to him.

Prayer: Dear God, be with each of us and bring people into our lives to bring us comfort. Help us serve you by comforting others as well. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die and save us. Thank you for calling each of us by name. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.