

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

### GRASPING THE CORE MESSAGE

When students are learning a language other than their mother tongue, some use reader books in which the original words have been simplified by the books' writers. However, as artificial intelligence (AI) tools become more powerful, simplification software is emerging that can simplify any written material automatically. This fall, in a test of an English-language AI text simplification tool in Busan, South Korea, students who were learning English were able to grasp the core message of an article simplified from the magazine *Scientific American*. The automated tools need more work to help readers of all levels, however. "Software developers will continue to develop AI-enhanced tools," says the study's leader, Professor Dennis Murphy Odo, "that will make challenging texts more and more comprehensible to foreign language learners with different reading proficiencies."

### EXPRESSING HIS CORE MESSAGE

When Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she was filled with the Holy Spirit and uttered beautiful words that expressed the heart of God and what would be Jesus' core message on earth. Those who fear the Lord will be exalted. Those who oppress the poor will be cast down. The hungry will be filled, and the proud will be scattered and sent away empty.

1. What's a complex idea someone has expertly simplified for you?
2. How would you describe God's core message? What is the Lord's heartbeat?
3. Who around you needs to hear that message?

### Additional Resources

*These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.*

- Music Video, Traditional: ["O Holy Night" by The Spirituals](#)
- Music Video, Multicultural: ["O Holy Night" by The Spirituals](#)
- Music Video, Contemporary: ["O Holy Night" by The Spirituals](#)
- [Guzik's Commentary on Luke 1](#)
- [Pulpit Commentary on Luke 1](#)
- [Clarke's Commentary on Luke 1](#)