GENERAL

# lyrics and chords to mary did you know

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

## Discover the Power of the Song: Lyrics and Chords to Mary Did You Know

When the holiday season rolls around, countless families gather around the piano or guitar to sing familiar carols. Yet, amidst the classic hymns and timeless Christmas tunes, there's one modern piece that has captured hearts worldwide: *Mary Did You Know*. This song, with its profound lyrical narrative and memorable melody, has become a staple in churches, homes, and concerts. Whether you're a seasoned guitarist looking to add a new piece to your repertoire or a beginner eager to explore the emotional depth of contemporary Christian music, this guide will walk you through the **lyrics and chords to Mary Did You Know** in a way that's both engaging and easy to follow.

## Why Mary Did You Know Resonates with Millions

The song was written in 1991 by Mark Lowry, a gospel singer, and Buddy Greene, a songwriter and musician. Initially released on a compilation album for a Christian television network, the track quickly gained popularity after being covered by artists such as Amy Grant, Carrie Underwood, and Chris Tomlin. Its lyrics pose a series of thought provoking questions to Mary, the mother of Jesus, about her understanding of the divine nature and the eventual sacrifice of her son. The simple yet powerful melody, coupled with its contemplative themes, invites listeners to reflect on faith, humility, and the profound mystery of the incarnation.

### Key Themes Explored in the Song

- Divine Revelation: The song questions whether Mary fully grasped the magnitude of her child's future.
- Human Emotion: It juxtaposes Mary"s love with the impending sorrow she would endure.
- Faith and Trust: The lyrics emphasize trust in God"s plan, even when it seems incomprehensible.

## Getting Started: What You'll Need

Before diving into the chords, it's helpful to know the basic equipment and knowledge required. A standard six string guitar, a capo (optional but recommended for many players), and a basic understanding of chord shapes will enable you to play the song comfortably. If you're new to guitar, start by practicing open chords and simple strumming patterns to build confidence.

## Full Lyrics and Chords to Mary Did You Know

Below, you'll find the complete set of lyrics with the corresponding chord progression. Each chord is indicated in brackets before the line it accompanies. Feel free to copy, print, or save this section for quick reference.

### Intro

[C] [G] [Am] [F] (Repeat twice)

### Verse 1

[C] Mary did you know
[Am] The child you hold
[F] Will be the One
[G] Who will save the world?

### Pre  Chorus

[F] Mary did you know
[C] He will make a sign
[Am] In your eye
[G] A child to die?

### Chorus

[C] Mary did you know
[Am] That you will be the mother
[F] Of the King of all kings
[G] Who will die for our sins?

### Verse 2

[C] Mary did you know
[Am] The blood that he'll shed
[F] Will wash away
[G] The sins of all men?

### Bridge

[F] Mary did you know
[C] That you will be the mother
[Am] Of the Prince of Peace
[G] Who will be the one

### Outro

[C] Mary did you know
[Am] That you'll be the mother
[F] Of the Savior of the world

## Understanding the Chords

The chord progression for *Mary Did You Know* is straightforward, making it accessible for guitarists at all skill levels. Below is a brief breakdown of each chord and how it fits into the song's structure.

### Chord List

- C Major (C) – Root chord, sets a hopeful tone.
- G Major (G) – Provides a sense of resolution.
- Am (A minor) – Adds a reflective, slightly melancholic feel.
- F Major (F) – Offers a warm, supportive backdrop.

### Chord Shapes for Beginners

1. C: x32010
2. G: 320003
3. Am: x02210
4. F: 133211 (barre) or xx3211 (simplified)

## How to Use a Capo

Many guitarists find it helpful to place a capo on the second fret, which transposes the song to the key of D major. This change keeps the chord shapes the same while raising the pitch, making it easier for vocalists with higher ranges. The chord progression remains identical; only the sound shifts slightly higher.

## Strumming Patterns

For a simple, heartfelt rendition, try the following down stroke pattern:

- Down (D) – Down (D) – Down (D) – Down (D)

To add dynamics, incorporate a pause after the second chord in each measure, creating a subtle rhythmic variation that mirrors the song's contemplative mood.

## Playing the Song: Step by Step Guide

### 1. Warm Up and Familiarization

Spend a few minutes stretching your fingers and practicing the chord shapes individually. This will help you transition smoothly during the actual play.

### 2. Intro Practice

Play the intro twice, focusing on clean transitions between C, G, Am, and F. Use a metronome set to a moderate tempo (around 70–80 BPM) to keep your timing consistent.

### 3. Verse & Chorus

Work on one verse at a time, ensuring that each chord change aligns with the lyric's emphasis. Once comfortable, move on to the chorus, paying attention to the emotional shift in the melody.

### 4. Bridge and Outro

These sections often introduce subtle variations in rhythm. Practice them slowly before adding the full strumming pattern.

### 5. Full Run Through

Once you're comfortable with each section, play the entire song from intro to outro. Record yourself to catch any timing issues or chord misplacements.

## Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

- Skipping Chords: Some players accidentally skip chord changes, especially during the pre chorus. Use a metronome or a click track to maintain steady rhythm.
- Over Strumming: Over playing can drown out the song's subtlety. Aim for a gentle, supportive strumming pattern.
- Ignoring Dynamics: The song's emotional depth comes from dynamic contrast. Practice softening your strums during verses and building intensity during the chorus.

## Advanced Tips for Experienced Players

Once you've mastered the basic version, consider these advanced techniques to add depth and personal flair:

### Fingerpicking

Replace the strumming pattern with a fingerpicking arrangement. Use the thumb for the bass notes (C, G, Am, F)

and the index, middle, and ring fingers for the higher strings. This creates a more intimate sound.

### Chord Substitutions

Swap the simple chords for more complex variations to add harmonic richness. For example, replace the Am with Am7 or the F with Fmaj7. These substitutions provide subtle color changes without altering the song's core structure.

### Vibrato and Slides

In the bridge, add a slide from G to Am or a gentle vibrato on the final F chord to emphasize the emotional climax.

## Practice Routine for Mastery

Consistent practice is key to mastering *Mary Did You Know*. Here's a structured routine you can follow:

### Day 1 – Chord Mastery

1. Practice each chord shape for 10 minutes.
2. Play the chord progression slowly, focusing on smooth transitions.

### Day 2 – Verse Focus

1. Play Verse 1 at a slow tempo.
2. Record yourself and listen for timing and chord accuracy.

### Day 3 – Chorus & Bridge

1. Play the chorus, then the bridge, at a moderate tempo.
2. Add dynamic changes: softer during verses, louder during chorus.

### Day 4 – Full Song Run Through

1. Play the entire song from intro to outro.
2. Identify any problematic sections and rehearse them again.

### Day 5 – Performance Practice

1. Play the song while singing or humming the melody.
2. Focus on breath control and phrasing.

## Why Learning the Lyrics and Chords to Mary Did You Know Matters

Beyond the technical skill of playing a song, understanding the **lyrics and chords to Mary Did You Know** offers a deeper appreciation for its cultural and spiritual significance. The song's narrative invites listeners to contemplate the human experience of faith, sacrifice, and hope. By playing it, you're not just performing a piece of music; you're engaging with a story that has touched millions across the globe.

## Final Thoughts

Mastering *Mary Did You Know* is a rewarding endeavor that blends musical technique with emotional storytelling. Whether you're sharing it in a church choir, at a family gathering, or in a solo setting, the song's timeless message will resonate with audiences. By following the steps outlined above, you'll be well on your way to delivering a heartfelt performance that honors both the melody and the profound lyrical themes.

## Ready to Play?

Grab your guitar, set your capo if needed, and let the **lyrics and chords to Mary Did You Know** guide you through a musical journey that celebrates faith, love, and the enduring power of music. Happy playing!

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