

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 1:26-56. What questions immediately come to mind? Does your familiarity with these verses hinder you seeing it with fresh eyes?
2. If an angel were to reveal to you God's plan for your life, how do you think you'd respond? How is your commission by Jesus to share the good news with others different from that...or is it? How are you responding to that "plan" for your life?
3. How is Mary's reaction & her "How?" question different from Zechariah's? What would it mean to doubt & fear God simultaneously? Why is it so hard for us to accept being a servant? Why do we have such trouble submitting our lives to God? Have you had any experiences where God has taught you to be a willing servant?
4. How does Gabriel describe Mary's child? According to Gabriel, how is Elizabeth's pregnancy linked to Mary's? What does that suggest? How does Mary ultimately react to the message she receives? Does that seem appropriate to you, or should she have asked more questions? What would you have done?
5. How does John's reaction, while still in the womb, indicate the nature of the child Mary is carrying? How does Elizabeth respond? Why might it be considered joyful to trust God's promises?
6. How does Mary's song reflect her faith in God & in what God is doing through her in the world? In verses 46-55 what attitudes towards God are commended? How does Mary fit into these? What attitudes are condemned? How are the contrasts in Mary's song consistent with the Bible's picture of God?
7. What do the births of John & Jesus reveal about the character of God? What about God's character is both good news & at the same time, a warning to those who do not yet believe? What about God's character would you be excited to tell people about this Christmas?
8. How do Elizabeth & Mary show us the right response to the blessings of God? Joy & praise are natural reactions to being blessed by God. Over the last week when could you have naturally praised God, either publicly or privately? From this passage, what good news could you naturally tell someone who doesn't know Christ?

Living Water Fellowship

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

13TH DECEMBER 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord Jesus, many of us are waiting for you: The war-torn are waiting for peace. The hungry are waiting for food. Refugees are waiting for a homeland. The sick are waiting for healing. We long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to be changed by your Spirit & welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that as we worship, you will create in us your fullness.. Come Lord Jesus...Amen.

SONG:

Once in Royal David's City

(On-Line worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBprzEc-1g>)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

Luke 1:26-56

FAITH CHAT:

THE MESSAGE:

CHRISTMAS IS MORE THAN...A FAMILY

PRAYERS:

COMMUNION: (on-site)

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: Jesus Strong & Kind

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**(Name) † child of God,
May Christ's presence fill you
& those around you forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Star Child (AT 520)*
On-Line worship – (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keD5ZjQ0fII>)

SHOW HIS LOVE

LUKE 1:26-56

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!"

²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favour with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail."

³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

³⁹ A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

⁴⁶ Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.

⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.

⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.

⁵⁵ For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever."

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.