



Sermon-based Small Group Guide

Week of December 20 *For What Was the Gift-Bearer Hoping?*

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Context

The Gospel of Luke begins with the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Then Luke tells us an angel, Gabriel, visits Mary and says to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” In Mary we see responses that include concern, fear, wonder, confusion and finally submission: “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Following the visit from the angel, Mary goes to visit Elizabeth. Imagine what Mary might have been thinking and feeling as she travelled there. In Luke 1:46-55 we are given, in the form of a song, what Mary proclaims to Elizabeth about what is happening.

Reflection Questions

1. How does the relationship between Elizabeth and Mary model the possibilities of inter-generational faith relationships?
2. We think of Mary as this innocent young woman, what do you notice in her speech in Luke?
3. Who does Mary think she represents and advocates for in her relationship to God?
4. How do we enter into the Mary song?

A Breath Prayer to carry with you this week:

Based on Mary’s words: “let it be with me ... according to your word.”

Breathe in to appreciate the life of Christ flowing into you ... Breathe out to submit to God’s Word.