

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Mary's God**

LUKE 1:39-56

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection insures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // LUKE 1:26-38

1. Read Luke 1:26-38
2. How does this passage help us delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ?
3. Discuss a couple aspects of God's character revealed in this passage. How might those apply to us today?
4. How does Mary's response, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" challenge and/or comfort you?

STUDY // LUKE 1:39-56

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Luke 1:39-45
2. Identify the main characters in this passage. What do we already know about them?
3. Discuss Elizabeth's words to Mary. What stands out to you? What is Luke trying to communicate to us about Mary and her son through Elizabeth's words?
4. Notice that Elizabeth says Mary is "blessed" three different times. Why is Mary blessed? How does this inform our understanding of what it means to be blessed?
5. What does Elizabeth say about the son in Mary's womb? How does she know these things?
6. Read Luke 1:46-56
7. What observations do you have about Mary's song of praise?
8. What does it mean that Mary's "soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"?
9. In verse 48, what is Mary's reasoning for praising the Lord?
In verse 50, who is the Lord's mercy upon? What does it mean to fear the Lord? Who is this promise for?

10. In verses 51-53, Mary sings about the signs of God's mercy being upon all people. According to these verses, what will God do to show his mercy to his people?
 - a. What does it mean that God has "scattered the proud," "brought down the mighty," "exalted those of humble estate," "filled the hungry with good things," and "sent away [the rich] empty"?
 11. Mary wraps up her song of praise in verses 54-55. What do you notice about these verses? Where is Mary's focus? How does God's faithfulness capture Mary's thoughts and affections?
 12. Why do you think Luke includes Mary's song (and Zechariah's song in verses 67-79)? They don't really do anything to advance the plot of the story. Why are they here?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are there areas in life where you need to entrust yourself to God and his Word?