The Magnificat
Luke 1:39-56

- God will not forget His _____ or His _____.

- God's promises are rooted in His _____.

- God's mercy rests on the _____ but His hand is against the _____.
    - In their _____
    - In their _____
    - In their _____

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Read Luke 1:39-56. The song of praise that Mary gives is what has historically been referred to as 'The Magnificat.' In her song, Mary's first response to what God has done in choose her to give birth to Messiah is to exalt or magnify God. Thinking back on your life, what are some things that God has done for you that are praiseworthy?

2. After 400 years of silence it would be easy to forget the promise God made to Israel or to lose heart and think that God had abandoned His people. In the miraculous conception and soon to be birth of Jesus, we are reminded that God is always faithful and can be trusted. Share with your group some places in your life where it is a struggle for you to trust that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do.

3. Both last week and this week we see that God's promises and His covenant nature is an expression of his mercy or *hesed*. From this we know that God does not love us because we are good but because He is good. How does knowing this help you to rest in who God is and what He desires from us?

4. Lastly, Mary's song reminds us of the principle that is found throughout all of Scripture - God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Our pride is often expressed in our unwillingness to ask for or receive help. How is your pride expressed in relationships with other people? How is your pride expressed to God? Will you take time today to confess your sin of pride to God and others and seek to live as one who is humble and understands their great need?