

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: If you were going to compare angels to something in our culture, would you compare them to: 1. A dove. 2. A cherubic fat child with wings. 3. A full grown person. 4. A powerful Black Hawk helicopter.

Why?

Read out loud: Luke 1:46-80

Christmas is the time to be blessed (makarios, fully satisfied) with the past and blessed (eulogio, verbally praising) with God's future for us, by:

#1. Trusting the Mighty Warrior who saved you.

Some people, when asked, compare Jesus to a sweet romance movie with a happy ending, when the Old Testament tells us He's more of a military movie with a giant rescue scene. What's been your past impression of who Jesus is and what He's like? Mary is 12-14 years old and yet she's the one who gets encouragement from picturing God as a Mighty Warrior! Why would being a young girl or woman in Israel during the Roman occupation find encouragement from this picture of God? Picture God as a Mighty Warrior, how does that picture bring encouragement to you during the Christmas season?

#2. Trusting the Powerful Redeemer who purchased you.

Redeem means to buy back or to free from captivity by payment of ransom (Webster Dict.) Jesus is a redeemer because He purchases our freedom from sin, Satan, hell and death. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God they enslaved themselves to Satan. That's why in verse 71 Zacharias says, "Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us." The Jewish people took that the nation of Israel would be free from Romans. Zacharias makes it clear that we are free from our real enemies, sin, Satan, hell and death. Jesus bought us back, and when we accept the payment Jesus made we become property of God. We are citizens of heaven. Have you ever thought of yourself as a previous slave of Satan? What's the latest enemy or sin you feel you're having victory over? What's the next area you, as a follower of Christ, would like to have victory over.

Family Time: Tell your kids the story of how they were planned, born (no graphic details please!!!) brought home and became a part of your family. Make sure to include how much you love them and how much they mean to you as a very important part of your family.