



**December 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> | Kip Nanninga/Matt Wooley: Magnifying Joy (Luke 1:39-56)**

1. Share a Christmas fail story with your group. When did something just not go as planned at Christmas?
2. What is the most difficult Christmas you can remember?

//Read Luke 1:39-45//

3. Why do you think Mary went to see Elizabeth?
4. How does the prophesy given to Zechariah in Luke 1:14-17 and what happens to Elizabeth in this verse exemplify God's power and the joy he brings?
5. When have you struggled with comparing yourself to others?
6. Why do you think Elizabeth was able to rejoice with Mary in her good news instead of feeling jealous or insignificant?

//Read Luke 1:46-56//

7. Consider that Elizabeth (an elderly woman) and Mary (a teenage girl) are both pregnant with key people in God's plan to bring salvation to his people. Why would God use them when no one would expect it?
8. How have you seen God use people in unexpected ways to impact your life?
9. What do Mary's words in Luke 1:53 convey about what is truly significant in God's eyes?

***Choosing to trust in counterfeit promises will steal my joy.***

10. How does Mary let God's actions toward Abraham and his descendants inform how she understands her situation?

***Joy comes from magnifying God and minimizing ourselves.***

11. In what situation will you give God the glory and praise this week?
12. Who in your life can you encourage through a hard circumstance this week?

*Leaders: Record group engagement and share a highlight via the MHC App.*