

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **Songs of Christmas**

## Part 1 – Mary’s Song

December 4, 2016



### Connect (10min)

#### What are your Five-Faves for Christmas?

- : Favorite Christmas Tradition? \_\_\_\_\_
- : Favorite Christmas Treat/Food? \_\_\_\_\_
- : Favorite Christmas Movie? \_\_\_\_\_
- : Favorite Christmas Character? \_\_\_\_\_
- : Favorite Store to receive a Gift-Card from? \_\_\_\_\_

### Check-In (10min)

Read [Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

**\*What is one way that you are tapping into God’s ‘resources’ for strength through His Spirit?**

**& what is one way that He spoke to you or impacted your life through that?**

(Examples: I’ve been reading \_\_\_\_\_, I’ve been listening to \_\_\_\_\_, I’ve been praying about \_\_\_\_\_, I’ve been journaling about \_\_\_\_\_)

**\*What is one way that you have been growing in *understanding, experience and application* of the love of Jesus?**

### Sunday Message Feedback (35-45min)

**1. What is your favorite Christmas Carol, and why?**

**2. Read [Luke 1:26-38](#)**

When we consider Mary’s situation, we can understand her question - **“How will this be?”**

We can imagine the confusion at the surprising circumstances, the fear of an uncertain future, and even the pain of false accusations.

- a. How do you think you would have responded to the news if you were Mary?
- b. Have you ever faced a seemingly impossible situation? What did you do?
- c. How did it cause you to respond to God?

**3. Read [Luke 1:46-55](#)**

Mary’s song in Luke 1:46-55 is known as the **“Magnificat”** (Latin for *“my soul magnifies”*).

When God is magnified in our lives, it doesn’t just influence others, it also influences us.

When God is magnified, our problems don’t look as big as they once did. Yet the opposite can also be true

- when our problems are magnified, God doesn’t look as big.

- a. How can we keep our problems and God in proper perspective?
- b. How do our problems seem to become so big?
- c. How do you think Mary kept her problems and God in perspective?

**4. Keeping Mary's song in mind - Read [Romans 5:1-5](#).**

One of the unique qualities of Mary's Song of Praise is its saturation with references to Scripture. Revealing a heart of righteousness in the midst of great uncertainty, her song illustrates a profound trust in the Lord. We see the biblical principle that what's inside comes out. Based upon Mary's song and what you just read in Romans 5, how do trials have a way of revealing to us who we really are? What have trials revealed about you this year?

**5. Read [Luke 1:48-50](#)**

It is important during this time of year to look back at the last year and consider God's goodness in our lives. We spend time looking to the future, but we cannot forget to consider our past. How specifically has God been good to you this year?  
\*Have each person in your group share three things or ways God has shown His goodness to them.

**6. Read [Luke 1:53](#)**

Even though you may think this is about God filling the hungry with food, it is not. Mary's words refer to a spiritual fullness as the hungry experience the power of God.

- Looking towards the New Year, in what specific areas would you like to be spiritually filled?
- What character issue would you like to see God develop you more in?
- What relationship would you like to see grow?
- What spiritual discipline would you like to see developed?

\*Discuss and explain why you need or want these things to happen.

## Application

\***Song for Reflection** (Optional): Listen to [Breath of Heaven](#) – by Amy Grant

\***What is one or two ways you can live your life this week magnifying the Lord, believing that you are favored in his sight?** Share.

## Prayer (10-15min)

**Break into groups of 3-4 or Men & Women. Share 1-2 personal prayer needs for the Christmas season: Give Thanks & PRAY for the person on your left.**

## Announcements

\***Group PHOTO Time!**

### H2H D-DAY

\***Saturday, December 10. 9am.** \*Delivery of our 100 Hunger to Hope Hampers.

### Tim Neufeld & the Glory Boys – Christmas Hoedown Event

\***Friday, December 16. 7pm.** Tickets: \$10 – Available at Guest Services and the Church Office

## Resources

\*[The Bible Project: Luke Ch. 1-9 – Animated Introduction](#)

\*Bible Character BIO – [MARY](#)

\*Movie: *The Nativity Story* – [Movie Trailer](#). Film available to buy/rent through most movie sources.

\*Song: [Breath of Heaven](#) – Amy Grant