

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: ADVENT PROPHCIES MARY'S SONG

TALK IT OVER

Start Here

This song is often called the Magnificat (Latin translation of the first few words - My soul magnifies the Lord)

Jesus' identity as our Savior is the ultimate demonstration of God's grace in the lives of His children. We did nothing to deserve a Savior, but through God's Son, a way was made for us to experience redemption, the atonement for our sins and eternity with God. The truth of God's grace was a source of immeasurable joy for Mary.

Key Scripture

"⁴⁶ And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home." Luke 1:46-56 (ESV)

Search for the "Renewal Church Denver" app or "St. John's Denver" app in your app store.

More of God's truth all week long at renewaldenver.tv and sjdenver.tv

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How would you define authentic joy (vs. happiness?)
- Can you share a time when you were joyful, but not happy?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 1:46-56. What reason did Mary give for her joy in 1:48?
- Read Luke 1:46-56. What attributes of God does Mary sing of?
- Read Luke 1:54-55 and Genesis 22:16-18. How was Jesus' birth related to God's promise to Abraham?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use a question from N.T. Wright's "Luke: For Everyone" (pg. 18-20).
- What attributes of God cause you to rejoice? How does reflecting on those attributes affect the way you worship?
- Throughout scripture, recounting the deeds of God is an important expression of worship. In verses 51-53, what works of God did Mary mention (this is a different question than God's attributes)?
- In hindsight, when has God provided for you in ways that said "only God could have come through in this way?"

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- What's something you're waiting on? Give it to God in prayer. What's some language from Luke 1:46-46 that you can work into your own prayer life?
- For one week, try keeping a "Gratitude Journal." Every day, reflect on the happenings of your day and record something you're grateful for. Read it at the end of the week and see if it doesn't give you joy!

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- "God, you give us almost no greater comfort other than you "remember us." Wherever we're at, whatever we're struggling with, you have us in mind, and are actively working for our good. This week I pray for reminders of your presence, that I might also be reminded to give you praise! Amen."

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. What was a memorable passage from your Life Journal (or other Bible reading plan) reading this past week?
2. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. What good can we do around here (are there any community needs God is calling us to meet)?
4. Pray for one another.