

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

## Mary's Song

Week of 12.2.2019

- During this Advent season, our sermon series is on The Songs of Christmas. What is your favorite Christmas song and why?

**BIG IDEA** – God is not impressed by our pursuit of perfection, or our trial and error performance, but glorified through humble obedience.

Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 he has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

- Christmas is a season of transformation. If Jesus is coming as the Savior, that must mean that we have something that we need to be saved from. What needs transforming in your life?
- Read Luke 1:28-48. Two times the angel calls Mary favored/blessed. In verse 48, Mary calls herself favored/blessed. This is the same word that we see in Matthew 5:3-11. Read that passage. What does it mean to be blessed? What standards do we as Americans often use to say we are blessed?
- When the angel spoke to Mary about God's plan for her, Mary was not concerned with her qualifications or how she was going to execute the plan. God wants to use us as well. God has plans for each of us. But we often default in one of two ways. We think we have to have it all together. Or we believe there is no way that God could use us based on our past, our present, or our inadequacies. What keeps you from allowing God to use you according to his plans?

- We often think that our inability has more influence than God's ability to use broken people. How have you seen God use broken people?
- In her song, Mary is praising God for what he has done. What is Mary praising God for?
- Mary is pouring out her knowledge of God's provision, protection, and promises as she reminds herself of God's character, faithfulness, and continual care. How have you experienced God's provision, protection, and promises?  
How have you learned of God's character, faithfulness, and care?
- When we praise God for what he's done, we learn to trust him in what he's going to do. We don't have to have all the answers, or even know the whole story. We simply need to know what God has done for us, and then we can start to believe in what God is going to do through us. What has God done that has developed your trust in him?
- We were made to be next to Jesus, our Savior. We cannot be in the presence of our King and not be transformed. How can you sit at the feet of Jesus during this Advent season?  
How can you join him in the work he is doing in your life?