

Week 4

What moment has brought you the most joy in life? Graduating? Wedding day? Birth of a child? Something else? How did you express your excitement?

Read Luke 1:46-54

What has Mary so excited that she breaks into song?

Mary is an unwed impoverished teenager who is now pregnant in a society that viewed sex outside of marriage as a despicable act that deserved stoning as capital punishment. Would you call yourself blessed if you were her? Explain.

Why is praise important?

What does Mary Praise the Lord for?

LEADERS NOTE: That God was mindful of her; He had done a great thing for her; His name is Holy; His mercy extends to those who fear Him; He has performed might deeds; He has put down the prideful; He has brought down rulers and lifted up the humble; he has feed the hungry and been merciful.

Are those things you normally take time to praise the Lord for? Why or Why not?

What are some aspects to God's character that you can praise Him for?

What are some things God has done for you that you can praise Him for?

How does praise change our outlook on life and what we are going through?

When verse 50 says, "His mercy extends to those who fear Him." What do you think the word fear means?

LEADERS NOTE: There are Hebrew words for reverence and respect but they were not used because this is deeper than that. God is so powerful He should be feared. Think of electricity, it

is something to be feared. After the hurricane if you saw a down power line you would be fearful to touch it. And yet we use electricity all the time. We just interact with it on its terms. The same is true for the fear of the Lord we must interact with Him on His terms and when we do we can approach him with confidence.

What do verse 51-54 teach us about God's Character?

LEADERS NOTE: In every verse Mary is referencing different aspects of God's control over everything that happens.

APPLICATION:

Will you commit to praise the Lord for 10 things each day this week and then send/post them so others can be influenced by your praise the way we have been influenced by Mary's praise today?

