

PREACHING CURRICULUM

Praise Someone

Luke 1:46-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Luke 1:46-55. Why is it significant that Mary was someone of humble estate (verse 48) when God chose her to be the mother of Jesus?

What does it mean to be blessed (verse 48)? Why did Mary consider herself to be blessed?

In this song, Mary said that the Lord has done great things for her (verse 49). Why is it important that she specifically identifies herself as the beneficiary of God's works?

Reread verses 51-53. What surprising reversal of fortunes does God bring about in this world? How does this demonstrate His justice and righteousness?

What do poverty and riches represent in verse 53? Why does God feed the hungry and yet send the rich away empty?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Do you feel insignificant and unnoticed? If so, what hope can be gleaned from Mary's story?

How empty or full do you feel? Are you spiritually satisfied? Why or why not?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

How has God been good to you?

Where has your focus typically been at Christmas – on the horizontal relationships with other people, or on your vertical relationship with God? Why?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How might Mary's example of praise encourage and energize your own life of worship?