

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 16, 2007

Passage: Luke 1:26-56

Memory Passage: James 4:6

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:26-30.** How does Luke describe Mary? In verses 28 and 30, what spiritual characteristics are mentioned?
- (b) Examine some other translations of verse 28. What is the angel saying about Mary—does he make this description because she is special or because God has done something special for her?
- (c) Read Luke 11:27-28. What misunderstanding about Mary had even begun to develop in Jesus' lifetime? How did Jesus correct this?
- (d) Which is more blessed—being the mother of Jesus or obeying the word of God?
- (e) Some teach that Mary was always a virgin (even after her marriage to Joseph). What do the following passages indicate (Mark 3:31-35; Matthew 12:46-50; John 2:12; Matthew 13:55; Matthew 1:25)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:26-30 and Luke 11:28. Talk about what pleases God the most. How can we be sure that we are pleasing God in what we do? What would the Christian life be like without God's Word? Give thanks together for God's Word.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:30-36.** What is the significance of the name given to Jesus (Matthew 1:21)? What prophecy would be fulfilled in her bearing this child (Matthew 1:22-23)?
- (b) How does the angel describe the child she will bear (vv. 32-33)?
- (c) How does the prophecy in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 refer to what the angel says about Jesus (also Jeremiah 33:15-17; Psalm 132:11; Psalm 85:35-36)? What does Psalm 45:6 tell us about who this son is?
- (d) What additional prophecy is fulfilled in Isaiah 9:6-7? What is the distinction between "a child is *born*" and "a son is *given*"?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 1:30-36 and Isaiah 9:6-7. Why must the Messiah be from David's family line? Could God become a man without the incarnation? Would He still be the Son of David and have the right to his throne?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:34-38.** What concern does Mary have? How is this also a fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 7:14)?
- (b) How does the birth of Jesus take place without an earthly father? Why is this essential? How does Paul affirm this in Galatians 4:4-5? How does John 8:41 show that everyone knew Joseph was not the father of Jesus?
- (c) What sign of confirmation does the angel give to Mary (vv. 36-37)? What promise is Mary reminded of (Matthew 19:26; Luke 18:27; Mark 10:27)?
- (d) What is Mary's response (vs. 38)? What is Mary's attitude toward the will of God for her life?
- (e) What should be our attitude toward life (Matthew 6:10; John 4:34; Acts 21:14; James 4:15)? What is the key to living this way ("according to your Word;" also Psalm 40:8; 1 Peter 2:2)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:34-38 and John 4:34. What is God's will for our lives? Can we be in the will of God when we are not willing to do His will? What would happen to Mary socially because of this child? What was her attitude toward this? Pray that you will be willing to obey God and live in His will no matter what the consequences might be.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:39-45.** What is the context of Mary's song? How does Elizabeth respond even before she knows about Mary's news? What does Elizabeth call Mary (Luke 1:43)? What does this tell us about her understanding about the unborn Messiah?
- (b) How does Mary respond to Elizabeth's praise? Who does Mary put the emphasis upon (1:46-49)?
- (c) Read Luke 1:46-49. How does Mary refer to God? What would this tell us about her understanding of her sin nature?
- (d) Why will all generations call her blessed? Is it because of *who she is* or *what God has done* through her?
- (e) Why has God responded in sending a savior (vv. 50, 54)? Also compare Titus 3:4-5.
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:39-45 and discuss the visit of Mary to Elizabeth's home. Make a list of all the amazing things that happened in this meeting. What is most amazing about this encounter? Why? What attitude do both Mary and Elizabeth have about their own sinfulness and need of a Savior? Do they think that the fact that God has "chosen" means they are better than others? Pray today for someone who does not know the Lord. Pray they might see their sin and see that Jesus is the only Savior.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 1:46-56.** How else does Mary describe God (Luke 1:46)? What are the indications of His might (vv. 51-53)?
- (b) Compare this with 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. How has God displayed His power in Christ? Why has He done so?
- (c) To whom does God show His salvation (Luke 1:50-53)? Notice the contrast in each verse. What does James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 tell us about who receives God's grace and who does not?
- (d) How does Mary conclude her song (Luke 1:54-55)? If God is not faithful to keep His promises to Israel, what can we conclude about God?
- (e) What do Numbers 23:19, 1 Samuel 15:29, Psalm 89:35, Titus 1:2, and Hebrews 6:18 tell us?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:46-56 and 2 Corinthians 8:9. Talk together about God's grace. How is Christmas about the grace of God? Talk about some ways you can put the emphasis on God's grace this week. Spend some time thanking God for His amazing grace!

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 1:26-56. What is surprising about Mary? How does she respond to praise about herself? What is her understanding of her sin and God's grace? How is her obedience and desire to do God's will an example for us to follow today? Pray that God's grace might be clear in worship and teaching tomorrow.

DATE: December 16, 2007

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The Song of Mary

“My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”