

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 14, 2014

Passage: Luke 1:5-55

Memory Passage: Luke 1:54-55

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:5-25.** What characteristics do you learn about Zechariah and Elizabeth (vs. 5-7)?
- (b) What prayer of Zechariah's was heard and who heard it (v. 13)?
- (c) Explain the role Zechariah and Elizabeth's son will play in redemptive history.
- (d) Why was Zechariah's response in v. 18 worthy of Gabriel's rebuke & discipline?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:26-38.** What characteristics do you learn about Mary (vs. 26-27)? Which one is most important and why?
- (b) Explain what Gabriel says about the Son Mary will bear, especially about the themes we covered in "The Promise" series.
- (c) What is the difference between Mary's response (v. 34) and Zechariah's response (v. 18)?
- (d) Explain how the names of Mary's Son ("holy" "the Son of God") are connected with the means of her conception (notice the "therefore" in the middle of v. 35).
- (e) Why does Gabriel inform Mary about Elizabeth?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:39-45.** What is the connection between John leaping in Elizabeth's womb and her being filled with the Holy Spirit (remember Gabriel's message to Zechariah)?
- (b) How did Elizabeth know Mary was pregnant with the Messiah ("mother of my Lord")?
- (c) Compare and contrast the faith of Mary, Zechariah, and Elizabeth (cf. vs. 18, 34, 38, & 45).
- (d) Consider what you would have done if you were Mary or Elizabeth. For example: If you were Mary, how would you have been prepared to tell Elizabeth of your pregnancy ("There was an angel, and the Holy Spirit, and I've never been with a man, and yet here I am . . .")? If you were Elizabeth, would you have wanted to talk about Mary's baby or your own? Etc.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:46-55.** Explain how a person's "soul magnifies the Lord" and "spirit rejoices in God."
- (b) What is Mary revealing about herself and her state when she identifies God as "my Savior" and why is this important?
- (c) Explain each of the 6 descriptions found in vs. 51-53 that describe how God shows mercy to those who fear Him (v. 50).
- (d) What do you learn about God and His character from Mary's song?

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

(a) **Read Luke 1:46-55.** Consider all you learned during the last 4 or 5 months in our series, “The Promise: Christ the Seed of Abraham,” and explain how Mary understands the child in her womb according to vs. 54-55.

(b) What do you learn about worship from Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary?

(c) In what ways does Mary’s Magnificat (vs. 46-55) instruct and encourage you in your daily walk of faith, especially in this wonderful, yet busy & distracting, time of year we call “The Christmas Season?”

(d) Mary’s song of praise gives evidence of her deep knowledge of Scripture. Are the times when your “soul magnifies the Lord” and your “spirit rejoices in God” fueled by such a deep knowledge of the Scriptures? Does such a life of worship even *require* such a deep knowledge of Scripture? Why or why not?

DATE: December 14, 2014

PASSAGE: Luke 1:46-55

Mary’s Magnificat