



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 3

In this season of anticipation, we've been learning from Mary's perspective of the events leading up to Jesus' birth. Our central passage this week shares the words of Mary in response to her visit with Elizabeth and the confirmation she received from her. God was doing a world-changing work in her! And her song of response reflects the magnitude of God's rescue plan. May you sing a song of praise to God this week!

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. Pray this or another prayer as you move into your day.

*Redeeming God,
My soul reflects Your glory back to You!
I am full of joy because You have seen me.
You know me and love me,
as small as I am in the scope of things,
You have done great things for me.
Holy is Your name!
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 1.46-49

*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.

- Something was growing inside of Mary in addition to the baby Jesus. A humbling sense of purpose was bubbling up in her—and all she could do in response was sing. Her very soul proclaimed the glory of God. **Have you ever had that sense that your own words are not going to be enough to express what is happening in your soul? Do you have a sense that your soul is declaring the greatness of God? What does your song (response) look or sound like?**
- *Lord, even when I feel small and insignificant, may your glory reflect off of my life and make your greatness more visible in the world around me. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 1.50-55

*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.”*

- Mary’s song continues and it reflects words and images from the Old Testament Psalms and prophets. She is saying that God was doing these things in her time—even through her. But the world around her may not have looked like that was true. Sometimes it seems that what God is doing is so counter to the way we have set up the world, that we forget that God is in charge. God’s mercy extends even to us who worship and adore Him. Through Jesus has, and continues to, turn things over. The hungry are fed, the proud are brought low and the humble are lifted up. The church of Jesus Christ is an instrument that God has chosen to make these promises come true. **How do you see the church living that out today?**
- *Jesus, your arrival on the scene changes everything. Help me to see the world the way you do. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: EXODUS 15.1-6, 21

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

*“I will sing to the Lord,
for he is highly exalted.*

*Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.*

² *“The Lord is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.*

*He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.*

³ *The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name.*

⁴ *Pharaoh’s chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.*

*The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.*

⁵ *The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.*

⁶ *Your right hand, Lord,
was majestic in power.
Your right hand, Lord,
shattered the enemy.*

²¹ *Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea."*

- This is one of the first instances of song being used to tell of God's great work. It's a song of rescue and praise, and it became the narrative and tune that the Israelites would share for generations. God has saved us! He is our warrior and defender! **If you were to sing a song that tells the story of God's rescue in your life, what would some of the lyrics be?**
- *God, today I commit to use my words to bring you praise and to tell of what you have done for me. Amen.*

THURSDAY: 2 CHRONICLES 5.13-14

The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang:

"He is good;

his love endures forever."

Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud,¹⁴ and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

- Here's a song that was sung after the completion of Solomon's Temple. The Ark of the Lord had been brought into the temple, and it stirred up the memories of God's goodness. So they sang. And as they sang, the glory of God filled the temple and the people were overwhelmed by it. **Have you ever sensed that the glory of God was filling up a place of worship? If so, was that experience accompanied by music? Silence? What songs seem to usher in the glory of God?**
- *God, like the singers in Solomon's temple, I lift up my praise to you today. I will sing about your enduring love and will look for your glory. Amen.*

FRIDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- The heading added to this passage in some translations says, “Living as those made alive in Christ”. Here Paul describes what that looks like. Hearts of peace and gratitude. Growth in understanding and faith that happens through the scripture and song. It all results in singing to God the gratitude of our hearts. **Have you been singing to God about the gratitude of your heart? Who do you allow to teach and warn you towards living as one who is made alive in Christ?**
- *Jesus Christ, I know that I have my life in you. Tune my heart to the songs of gratitude for all that you have done for me. Amen.*

SATURDAY: REVELATION 15.3-4

They held harps given them by God³ and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

“Great and marvelous are your deeds,

Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,

King of the nations.

⁴Who will not fear you, Lord,

and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come

and worship before you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

- This is one of the last songs of the Bible. It’s an image from the vision given to John and recorded in the Book of Revelation. **Compare these words to the song sung by Mary, Moses, Miriam, and the early disciples of Jesus. Do you find common themes? Can you picture yourself around the throne of King Jesus singing this song?**
- *Jesus, great and marvelous are your deeds! May I bring glory to your name today. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob shared about a recent experience where his song changed based on his circumstances. Then he said:

“I want to sing a different song than the world.

And Christmas is that time when we all kind of say, ‘I want to sing a different song. I want to sing like Mary.

I want my soul’s song to magnify God, to make Him look bigger. Because He is Worthy. He is Worthy and when we sing that with our lives, our perspectives change and we see our expectations as smaller and God’s promises as bigger.”

- One of the challenges in following Jesus is singing a consistent song. If we sing about the greatness of God and salvation through Jesus in one breath, and then deny Him by our actions or words in the next, then our song is inconsistent. We will get out of tune from time to time. **How can your group commit to help one another stay on pitch with the song of salvation that we have inherited?**