

West Towne Circles Discussion Guide

Songs of Hope



Week One: Mary's Song

Overview

Let's talk about hope! The season of Advent thrusts us into a season of expectation, of longing, and ultimately – a season of hope. In this series, we'll look at three "songs" of people who found themselves in the middle of the Christmas story. This week, we looked at Mary's song – and we were inspired by her simple faith in God, and by her proclamation that God remembers his people, exalts those who are humble and lowly, and that Jesus came to fulfill all of God's promises.

Reading and Discussion

1. As an ice breaker, open this discussion by sharing one of your favorite Christmas memories – maybe a favorite gift you've ever given or received, or share about a great gathering with family or friends.
2. **Read Luke 1:46-50.** What stands out to you about the opening lines of Mary's song? What does Mary's humble and lowly status communicate to us about God?

- 3. Read Luke 1:51-53.** As we discussed in the message on Sunday, we can often miss how our own status in a prosperous land can blind us to the ways in which we are rich and powerful compared to others in the world. How can we keep a proper perspective, humble ourselves, and submit to God while also living in a powerful culture?
- 4.** The people of Israel had waited for centuries for God's promise to be fulfilled, and for the Messiah to come. The period in-between the promise and the fulfillment was filled with suffering, disappointments, and even exile. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where it seemed like the promise of God seemed so far away? Share, if you feel comfortable.
- 5. Read Luke 1:54-55.** Mary recalls how God has remembered his mercy and his promises to his people. He remembered his promise to them, and Jesus came. What about the situation you shared about a moment ago? How did God move in that situation? Are you still waiting on him to do so? If so – what can we pray for? Share, if you feel comfortable.
- 6.** Close this session by praying, and giving God thanks for the ways he has moved in our lives, as well as praying for him to move in situations in which we're still waiting for him to.