

CHRISTMAS TO DO LIST

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



LUKE 1:46-55

Small Group Discussion Questions

Ice Breaker: Your To Do List. Christmas is a busy season of the year. We have parties to attend, people to thank, gifts to wrap, cards to write, meals to cook, and much more. If you're like a lot of people, you've probably made a "To Do" list in order to accomplish each important task. Ask your Small Group Members, what is still on your To Do List this year? What was your favorite thing to do on your list? What was your least favorite thing to do?

1. Read Luke 1:26-38. When we consider Mary's situation, we can understand her question - "How will this be?" We can imagine the confusion at the surprising circumstances, the fear of an uncertain future, and even the pain of false accusations. But, in the midst of all this, Mary gets away to the Hill Country to her relative, Elizabeth. Why is it sometimes important to get away in the midst of uncertainty? What do you think Mary thought about during her journey? If you faced surprising circumstances, who would you run to?
2. Read Luke 1:46. **We Must Magnify Him As Lord.** To magnify something means to make it bigger or to bring it closer. Mary's prayer was that her life would take God and make him bigger and closer and more influential in others lives. Is that true of our lives? As Pastor James explained, God is most magnified in us when we do what would be impossible to do without him. How can you magnify God this Christmas? Considering Pastor James ideas (minister to those in need, spend time in prayer, etc.), discuss some specific ways you can make God bigger this Christmas.
3. When God is magnified in our lives, it doesn't just influence others. It also influences us. When God is magnified, our problems don't look as big as they once did. Yet the opposite can also be true - when our problems are magnified, God doesn't look as big. How can we keep our problems and God in proper perspective? How do our problems seem to become so big? How do you think Mary kept her problems and God in perspective?
4. Read Luke 1:47. **We Must Embrace Him As Savior.** As exemplary as Mary was, she still realized her need for a Savior. Like us, Mary was a sinful person who relied on God for delivery - and she was excited to share it. The Christmas season often gives us special opportunities to share our need for a Savior. How can Christmas be a great opportunity to share the Gospel? Who can you share the Savior with this Christmas?
5. One of the unique qualities of Mary's Song of Praise is its saturation with references to Scripture. Revealing a heart of righteousness in the midst of great uncertainty, these amazing words flow from Mary's trust in the Lord. We see the biblical principle that what's inside comes out. How do trials have a way of revealing to us who we really are? Why do people work so hard to make people believe they are good rather than just being good? What have trials revealed about you this year?
6. Read Luke 1:48-50. **We Must Acknowledge His Goodness.** It's important during this time of year to look back at the last year and consider God's goodness in our lives. We spend time looking to the future, but we cannot forget to consider our past. How specifically has God been good to you this year? Consider having each Small Group Member make a Top Ten List of God's goodness this year.
7. Read Luke 1:51-52. **We Must Fear His Wrath.** Mary recognized the perfect interaction of God's goodness with His justice, His love and His wrath. When we live in recognition of God's perfect holiness, we live with a sense that we will answer for our choices. We have a choice to humble ourselves now or be humbled later. What could Mary be proud of? What do you take most pride in? How does viewing God clearly put our pride in perspective? What causes a person's biblical fear of God to diminish and pride to increase?
8. Read Luke 1:53. **We Must Hunger For His Fullness.** Although you may think this is about God filling the hungry with food, it is not. Mary's words refer to a spiritual fullness as the hungry experience the power of God. Looking towards the New Year, in what specific areas would you like to be spiritually filled? What character would you like to see increase? What relationship would you like to see grow? What spiritual discipline would you like to see developed?