

ADVENT—3 Community Group Questions

Luke 1:46-55

1—Where are you seeing the Lord work in your life during this Advent season?

2 – The theme of the third Sunday in Advent is Joy. Biblical **joy** (“chara” in Hebrew) is *a stable, rooted inner gladness rooted in God’s goodness*. The word **happy** finds its roots in the phrase hap, which is related to luck or chance. Where have you depended on happiness based on luck instead of joy based on the character of God? How would your life look different if your understanding of God’s goodness wasn’t tied to your circumstances?

3—Read **Luke 1:46** and **49**. As she opens her song, Mary magnifies God first (v46). What is currently magnified most in your life? How can you intentionally shift your focus to God this week? As she continues, she remembers God’s past faithfulness (v49). What is one “great thing” God has done for you that you might bring back into focus right now?

4—Luke 1 shows us Mary carrying both joy and cost in her calling. Where have you felt the tension between obedience to God and fear of what others might think? What does it look like to have “joy set before you” (**Hebrews 12:2**) when nothing around you looks promising? How is your current view of hardship being shaped by your faith?

5 – Read **Luke 1:41**. Where have you experienced the unexpected joy of the Spirit when God was at work? When Paul writes that joy is a fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5:22**, what does that mean for how we can experience joy?

5—Which of these things do you need to focus on this week to prepare yourself to receive joy? What does it practically look like to start?

- Magnify God first
- Look in the right places
- Make room with humility
- Remember