

TEACH US TO PRAY

Week 2 Discussion Questions

Mary's Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55

Icebreaker:

What was your experience in prayer this past week?

Did you pray through the Lord's Prayer?

What did you notice about your prayer life this week?

Read this week's passage (Luke 1:46-55).

What stands out from the text or sermon?

What words, phrases, or themes stand out to you most? Why?

What is a Magnificat? Mary's song describes God's faithfulness in her own life and in Israel.

Who is Mary and what do you know about her from the Bible? What is the context of her prayer?

Mary, the mother of Jesus. She has just been told by the Angel of the Lord, Gabriel, that she was going to conceive and bear a son, though she is a virgin. Put yourself in her shoes—the impossibility of the situation would be difficult to accept or even believe. The prayer that follows this revelation is in the midst of the unknown. Mary does not have answers yet. There is no resolution or closure.

Mary's prayer/song is full of Old Testament references. What does her prayer/song reveal to us about her relationship with God?

Mary knows God. She recalls all that he has done in the past and recognizes his faithfulness and praises him for it. Mary trusts the Lord, knowing that if he was faithful in the past, he will surely continue to be faithful. She knows God's character and trusts him fully.

What are the types of things you pray for most often? What does this reveal about your relationship with God?

List together the various types of prayer found in the Bible and share which of these is most natural in your own prayer life.

Adoration, thanksgiving, praise, lament, petition, intercession, unity, confession, imprecation, surrender, meditation...etc.

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Mary's world has just been turned upside-down by God. Her plans were interrupted and she's facing a situation truly unknown to anyone before or after her. How does she respond?

Mary responds in faith to praise God for who he is. Her default is based on her knowledge of who God is and what he's done in the past. She knows God's word and his truth, and that enables her to trust him.

When have your plans been abruptly interrupted by God's plan and how did you respond?

What role does praise play in your prayer life and what is one way you could make it a bigger part of your relationship with God?

Application:

If you were to write your own "Magnificat" today based on your experience of God's faithfulness, what "great things" would you thank Him for?