

Anthems—Expectation

Study Questions

Luke 1:26-56

Warm-up

1) What are you looking forward to most about this Christmas season?

A little deeper

2) [Luke 1:26-38] The angel Gabriel was sent to let Mary know that she found favor with God and would give birth to Jesus. After a question or two, she replied, “I am the Lord’s servant, let it all be as you say.” **Putting yourself in Mary’s place, what difficulties might this situation have presented in the coming months? What expectations would there be for the coming ten to twenty years?**

What are some reasons God may have had for choosing Mary?

3) [Luke 1:39-45] Mary soon visited Elizabeth, who celebrated when she arrived. By the Holy Spirit, she knew what was happening to Mary. Even with life-changing news, Mary was here, visiting Elizabeth and being with her for the remainder of her pregnancy. **Have you known anyone who, after receiving big news about their own life, might go to help someone else through a momentous time in their life?**

What major characteristics of Mary and Elizabeth come out through the words they choose to speak? How does this compare to how the “average” person might respond?

4) [Luke 1:46-56] What theme(s) do you see in Mary’s song? How does Mary identify herself with respect to these themes? Where else have you seen these themes, and what do they say about who God is?

Bringing it home

5) How readily would you accept God’s call on your life right now, if it meant a lot of change? If it would be difficult, what might be the hardest to overcome? How much would it help to have others go through it with you, who have also received God’s call?

6) Which promises from God do you take personally? How did you come to accept these promises? If you have trouble trusting any of God’s promises, what is the biggest obstacle?

7) When you’ve experienced big changes in the past, have you approached them with a heart of humility and an attitude of thankfulness? If not, where was your focus? What do you do (or what could you) to cultivate a heart of humility and an attitude of thankfulness?