

Wednesday

Read: Luke 1:39-45 Elizabeth's blessing

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did Mary go immediately to visit Elizabeth?*
2. *Why does Elizabeth say Mary is blessed? What does her blessing mean for the world?*

Prayer Focus You made the impossible a reality for Elizabeth. Then, it was Mary's turn. How wonderful to think she had Elizabeth, who understood. Let us be present, to be company for someone else while they wait. Bless us with their hope and joy, God of our hearts.

Thursday

Read: Luke 1:46-50 Mary's praise

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What role does praise play in your prayer life? How is it a part of your Advent season?*
2. *What special praise would you like to lift up to God today? How will you express that praise?*

Prayer Focus When we praise you, Our Refuge, we hear again how much we've received and how much more we might be able to do when we lean on your strength.

Friday

Read: Luke 1:51-56 Mary's prophecy

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Mary's prophecy covers political, social, historical and even economic realms. Which of those things would you pray about today?*
2. *Do you see Mary as meek and mild? Or something else altogether?*

Prayer Focus Your faithfulness and your caring are magnificent, God of All Love. Thank you for the fierce hope and faith of the woman you chose to carry Jesus into our world. Let us stand to greet the coming Light she bore into our world.

The Promise of Potential

Pastor's message: Luke 1:26-56

Message Notes:

Small Group Format



Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *How are you making time for Advent wonder and reflection this season?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Luke 1:26-56**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

THE PROMISE OF POTENTIAL

December 10, 2023

Monday

Read: Luke 1:26-33 Gabriel's announcement

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *When you see or think of the Nativity scenes this season, how do you see Mary? Who is she to you?*
2. *Gabriel tells Mary who her son will become. What do you see as most important in Gabriel's message?*

Prayer Focus Mary's world stood in darkness and doubt, and so does ours. We wait for new light, God of Hope, and for the courage to shine that light into a world in need.

Tuesday

Read: Luke 1:34-38 Mary says yes

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is different about Mary asking Gabriel "How can this happen?" and Zechariah asking Gabriel the same question? Why was it different?*
2. *How do you think Mary reacted to hearing from an angel that her elderly cousin Elizabeth was pregnant?*

Prayer Focus It's not easy for us to accept that nothing is impossible for you. Still, let it be possible with us to live as servants, Holy One. Let us find ways to respond as Mary did, with a clear "Yes."