

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Luke 1:39-56

These questions are for the **December 22, 2024** message, **“Waiting for Christmas, A Series for Advent: Hopeful Humility.”** Please read the sermon passage together to set the context for our study.

Passage Outline

When God’s plan seems overwhelming, we can be confident that...

1. God’s power is active. (39-44)
 - A. God sent an angel to speak to Mary
 - B. In His power, God caused both a virgin and a barren woman to be with child
 - C. Elizabeth was “filled with the Holy Spirit,” the power and presence of God
2. God’s plan is personal. (45)
 - A. Elizabeth noted that Mary had believed what was “spoken **to you** from the Lord.”
 - B. The angel told Mary that she had found favor with God.
 - C. The angel told Mary that she would bear a son.
3. God’s mercy is vast. (46-53)
 - A. When we magnify the Lord, our spirit rejoices in Him.
 - B. Mary had received grace and mercy from God, personally
4. God has shown mercy to those who fear him, and to the downtrodden
 - A. He has scattered the proud
 - B. He has brought down the mighty and exalted the humble
 - C. He has fed the hungry
5. God’s promises are trustworthy. (54-56)
 - A. God has kept His promise to Abraham, to make him into a great nation

Help finding Hope...

- The humble heart acknowledges that God must do it (our hope is in Him).
- The humble heart acknowledges past grace (hope for the future springs, in part, from the past).
- The humble heart is willing to share (in a hopeless world, hope is contagious).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Both Zechariah and Mary, who had both been visited by an angel and were given similar news, received that news differently. Zechariah doubted, whereas Mary believed. How might the way they viewed God’s power have contributed to that difference? How might your understanding of God’s power influence your ability to trust Him?
2. Pastor Torrey noted that, even in carrying out plans that impact multitudes, God still seems to take a personal interest in individuals. In your experience, is it harder to sense God’s personal interest in you in the midst of trials or in the midst of celebrations? Why do you think that is the case? How has He expressed Himself to you in personal ways in the past?
3. How does God use others to show mercy to the downtrodden and the oppressed? What are some opportunities you might have to show God’s mercy to the discouraged around you?
4. Is there a particular promise of God that is especially challenging for you to believe? How can your Life Group pray for you as you seek to trust Him more deeply?