



# JESUS WITH US

Week 1, Day 5

## Mary's Praise of God

Read: *Luke 1:46-56*

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### THEME

## Great Faith Magnifies the Lord

Mary sings out of her great faith and that faith magnifies the Lord. She believed and because she believed it has brought God glory from generation to generation.



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## TEACHING

Mary's song is an amazing outpouring of a young woman's faith in God. What makes it even more unbelievable is the fact that this is the first time that God has spoken to one of his people for 400 years.

These years have been years of waiting and anticipation of God's plan. How will God restore Israel? How will he deal with evil? Who is the long-awaited Messiah - King through whom God will fulfill his purposes? Everyone in Israel has been waiting for the revelation of God's plan and the person he chooses to reveal it to is not a priest, or a king, or a prophet, but a young virgin. She is not powerful. She is not rich. She has no platform, but she is faithful. Hear her words when the angel tells her what will happen: "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true" **(1:38)**. Her answer is, "yes Lord. I'll do whatever you say."

It is to this very young, probably teenage girl to whom God reveals his marvelous, mysterious plan. The angel doesn't leave any details out: "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end" **(1:31-33)**! God is about to do everything everyone has been waiting for through Mary's son.

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## STOP & DISCUSS

**Why do you think God chose Mary?**

**Does it matter that Mary was a virgin? Why?**

**How does Mary's story change your view on how God can use you?**

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## TEACHING

Mary's Song comes right after Elizabeth remarks on Mary's faith **(1:45)**. It shows her psychological and emotional state in light of her belief about what God is doing. Out of the outpouring of her faith comes a song.

Many throughout history have called this song "the Magnificat" because of Mary's first words: "My soul praises the Lord." The word for praise can also mean "to magnify or enlarge" (Greek: megalunei) That's exactly what Mary is doing with her faith: she is magnifying the Lord and making his name great. Here is how she does that through her life and song:

First, Mary's faith magnifies the type of people God uses. There is such an intense juxtaposition in this passage between who Mary is and who she will bear. She is a poor peasant virgin girl, not a powerful princess married to a king. Yet God takes who is lowly and weak to work his plans in order to display his glory. He is the God who constantly takes the poor, sinful, and broken and uses them to upend the powerful. He does this because the rich and powerful put their faith in themselves and human institutions. The poor and destitute put their faith in God.

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## STOP & DISCUSS

**Why does God like to use the poor and powerless?**

**Mary magnifies God with a song. How do you magnify the Lord?**

**How does your faith inspire you to create?**

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## TEACHING

Secondly, Mary's faith magnifies God's power and justice. God is so powerful and his arm is so mighty, that he will overthrow all of the kingdoms of the world through the faith and obedience of a young girl. Mary says "His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble (**vv. 51-52**). This highlights something about Mary's faith - she believes that God can do anything. As crazy as it may be for a poor virgin girl to have a child, she believes that God can do it because he said he would. There is literally nothing impossible for him, especially when it comes to making the world right.

Thirdly, Mary's faith magnifies the faithfulness of God. The last thing that Mary's song really highlights is that God is faithful. Mary and the people of Israel have been waiting that God would act on their behalf. Waiting is a form of believing. Even after 400 years, God's people hadn't given up on his promised future. He has always been faithful to Israel and will continue to be. His action through Mary shows once again that God is faithful and never gives up on his promises. If God says he will do something he will do it no matter the odds. God is faithful and he is showing it through Mary.

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## STOP & DISCUSS

**Is it hard for you to believe God can do anything? Why?**

**What situation in your life would you like God's power to manifest?**

**How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?**

## Live it

Where can you step out and faith right now that will magnify the Lord? Where has the Lord shown great faithfulness to you? Where has God shown his mighty power? When we believe we magnify God. Whether it's through song or action, great faith displayed in a believer tells the world that Jesus is king. What kind of song does your life sing?