

## **Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals**

### **"Receiving Grace"**

**Luke 1:26-56**

**September 20-21, 2014**

#### **For Starters**

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or raised questions?
2. Who are the favored people in our day? Who are the people that are not favored?

#### **Digging In**

1. Starting with verse 25 and reading through verse 56, identify how many times the word "blessing" or "favor" is mentioned in this text. What did God's blessing and favor look like for Mary and Elizabeth?
2. This is the angel Gabriel's second birth announcement. How is this announcement more astonishing than the first announcement in verses 11-20?
3. Compare Mary's response to Gabriel (vv 29, 34, 38) and Zechariah's response (vv 12, 18-20). How are they similar? How do they differ?
4. What do we learn about Jesus in verses 31-35?
5. How is God's nature (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) present in this text? What do you specifically notice about the Holy Spirit in verses 35-41?
6. What is Mary's response to God's Word as delivered by the angel Gabriel. Look at verses 38 and 45? How did she get there when Zechariah the priest couldn't?
7. Mary's response to all these events is a song of worship (vv 46-55). List the attributes and characteristics of God in this song.
8. How is Mary's song similar to worship songs you sing? How is it different? What might be some of the reasons for the similarities or differences?

#### **Bringing It Home**

1. What are some obstacles that keep you from following Jesus wholeheartedly?
2. How does Mary's view of God differ from how you view God?
3. How does this passage encourage you as a Christ follower?  
What obstacles keep you from receiving God's grace?
4. Luke's gospel is full of stories about marginalized individuals' interaction with the saving power of Jesus. How do you see that in this text?  
How does this encourage you?

#### **Digging Deeper**

Read the next few chapters of Luke this week. (Read the whole book if you have time.) Identify marginalized individuals – how do they respond to Jesus? Compare and contrast Mary's song with Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at [myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org](mailto:myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org).