

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, Nov. 29, 2015

The Gospel In Song | Luke 1:46-55 – Mary's Song: The Magnificat

The *magnificat* is Latin for “magnify.” Mary’s soul magnifies the Lord as she sings of the wonderful things that “He has done” throughout the generations. Travis talked about how her song was epic (huge scope), classic (divine reversal narrative), and simple (God my Savior). He quoted Aslan from *Prince Caspian* to highlight God’s work in the Gospel during our advent study.

“Aslan” said Lucy “you’re bigger”.

“That is because you are older, little one” answered he.

“Not because you are?”

“I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger”.

1. How does Mary's song relate back to our study of Romans and how it applies to us today?
2. Like Aslan becoming bigger to Lucy in the Narnia series, what aspects of a “bigger” God does Mary reveal in her song?
3. How many times does “He has” (or variation) appear in the song? What does this convey to you about Mary’s joy?
4. How often do you feel your joy originates in God’s character and work? What are things that “He has” done in your life that you need to praise him for?
5. What is the pattern of “divine reversal” exhibited in v. 52-53? What does it symbolize? (Grace)
6. What reality in your own life do you hope Jesus could turn around this season?
7. How do the inversions in Mary's song expose misconceptions you may have about God? Or misconceptions of the Gospel?
8. What does it mean that God has “remembered to be merciful?” What are some of the promises that he made to Israel that he is now fulfilling? How can we know that he will fulfill them to us?
9. Travis spoke about our tendency to try and “self save” even when we know it’s God who saves by grace through faith. How do you see this tendency in your own heart? (i.e. bringing your accomplishments before God)
10. How can you teach your children to focus on what God “has” done? How can you encourage your spouse/friends in what God “has” done?
11. What are some habits or practices we can keep in our individual lives/homes/families that can help us sing Mary’s simple song this season?