



# REJOICE FOR THE WORK OF JUSTICE

Read aloud the passages for this week:

LUKE 1:46–56



## LOOKING BACK TO LAST WEEK

Provide support, encouragement, and accountability to one another for putting the Word of God into practice. Together, find ways to live out the Scripture.

- **What do you remember from last week's study?**
- **What, if anything, got in the way of you living out the Word of God you studied last week? For example, how difficult did you find it to make a regular practice of blessing others?**

## Head

OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS.

1. Notice the phrase, "he has" in these verses. What does Mary say God has done?
2. Who will and who will not receive God's mercy (vv. 50-53)?
3. Why would those in power fear the implications of Mary's song?
4. How does God's grace work contrary to the ways of the world?

## Heart

ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS.

1. In what ways have you used God's blessings in your life to magnify and bring glory to Him?
2. Where are you tempted to take God's blessings and glorify yourself? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you those instances and help you to repent of them.

## Hands

APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES. THESE ARE SPECIFIC, CONCRETE EXAMPLES BUT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY WAY—THEY ARE IDEA-STARTERS FOR HOW TO PUT THE WORD OF GOD INTO PRACTICE.

### Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Praise and thank God for the things He has done in your life to cause your spirit to rejoice and your mouth to proclaim His goodness.

- How does serving marginalized communities honor God and strengthen your relationship with Him?

### Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- This week as Fall Alpha comes to a close, pray that God would use it to open hearts and minds to the gospel. Pray that each participant would see God more clearly and take a step closer to full dependence on Him.
- God is merciful to those who are helpless, hungry, and humble. How can you be an extension of God's mercy to the marginalized in your community? In what ways could you cultivate more availability or willingness to be used by God to help others?

### Reaching Beyond

- Sunday, December 17 is your last opportunity to support ministry partners in a fun way by making purchases at the 22nd Annual FPC Mission Market, 8 AM-1 PM, Palm Court. To learn more, email Mary-Floye Federer at [mffederer@fpchouston.org](mailto:mffederer@fpchouston.org).
- To do Kingdom work with one of our local ministry partners, visit [fpchouston.org/serve](http://fpchouston.org/serve). Contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator at [mweir@fpchouston.org](mailto:mweir@fpchouston.org) for more information.
- What other things is God showing you through this passage? How do you plan to respond?




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## GOSPEL-CENTERED PARENTING TAKE-AWAY

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Even in the unknown, Mary chose to rejoice and praise God, declaring how she had seen Him work in her life and those of her forefathers. As Christmas approaches, it is easy to focus on what we want (gifts, gifts, and more gifts) and how we want the actual celebration to go (which family members we see when, the Christmas menu, etc.). As we enter into a season where there are unknowns (what will we get? whose house will we visit first, your parents or mine?), invite your children to make a habit every day of declaring what mighty things God has done. These praises could be as simple or as grandiose as you like. The point is that our focus, just like Mary's, remains on our King Jesus and the ways He comes through for us, no matter what our circumstances look like. Here are a few suggestions to get started:

- My soul magnifies the Lord because He has given me delicious jelly toast this morning.
- My soul magnifies the Lord because I get to see my grandparents in two weeks.
- My soul magnifies the Lord because He loves me.
- My soul magnifies the Lord because He helped me be kind to my sibling even when I didn't want to show kindness.
- My soul magnifies the Lord.