

PRAYER

- Thank God for who He is, for His greatness, and for His power. Thank Him for extending grace to you through Jesus Christ because of His great love.
- Ask God for a renewed encounter with Him and a greater understanding of His greatness and saving grace. Pray that this will change the way you live and treat others.
- Pray for your family members and friends who have not yet encountered the great God and His grace. Pray for opportunities this week to share who God is with them.

NOTES

THE PROMISE FULFILLED

WEEK 1

Mary's Song

WARM-UP

- Recall something kind a family member or friend did for you recently. Tell us about it.
- Think of one characteristic you would like to have. Who displays it, and why do you want it?
- Was there ever a time you decided to do something right even if you knew people would not respond well to it? Why did you do what was right anyway? What happened?

WORD

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." . . . LUKE 1:38

(Read also **LUKE 1:46-55.**)

After God assured the people of Israel that He had loved and would continue to love them until the end, He was silent for 400 years. One of the first to receive His words after that was Mary, an engaged teenage girl. An angel told her that she would give birth to the *Son of the Most High*—a promise fulfilled by God (Isaiah 7:14) through this girl who was probably one of the most powerless in that society. Mary's situation was terrifying. She could have been cast out and disowned by her fiancé, her family, and society. But she answered, *"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."* Instead of fear, Mary's song celebrated God's greatness and grace.

1 God's Greatness

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . ." **LUKE 1:46,47**

(Read also **LUKE 1:48,49.**)

Mary's song began with praise for God. She glorified Him as *mighty, great, and holy*. Mary knew that a God like that did not need to care about a young teenager, or even to include her in His plans, because He is great, and He is God. Her humility and awareness of who was speaking to her was so great that she did not even ask Him to choose someone else. Fully aware of her own lowly state and limitations, her words celebrated only Him. How did Mary respond to God? How should we respond? Do we forget to worship God for who He is, and be in awe of His might, greatness, and holiness?

2 God's Grace

"And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation." **LUKE 1:50**

(Read also **LUKE 1:51-55.**)

Mary's song recalled God's faithfulness and grace to the people of Israel. Because of His great love for them, He showed them mercy *from generation to generation*. *He exalted those of humble estate, filled the hungry with good things, and helped his servant Israel*. The child Mary was carrying was part of this plan to redeem the world. When we understand how great God is, we become aware of just how great His grace is toward us. Then, like Mary, we can truly celebrate Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. What is mercy and grace, and how should we respond to this?

APPLICATION

- Have you experienced God's mercy and grace? If so, how has an understanding of God's mercy and grace changed you? If not, would you like to do so and give your life to Him today?
- How can you grow in your relationship with God every day? How can you focus on His might, greatness, and holiness this week?
- Among your family and friends, who still needs to hear about the grace God has extended to us in Jesus Christ? How can you show them His greatness and grace this week?