

**Look Back:**

- How did you change your focus to look to Jesus for needed hope this past week?

**Look Up:****Read : Luke 1:26-45**

- Describe your understanding of Mary's situation when the angel appeared? What had she done to be "favored" by God? What does this tell you about God?
- Why do you think Mary was "troubled" by the angel's greeting? What does this tell you about people?
- Describe the exchange between Mary and the angel in your own words? What do you think was key to Mary going from being troubled to acceptance?
- Why do you think Mary went to Elizabeth and how do you think Mary felt after visiting Elizabeth? Who do you turn to for guidance and support when you are confused and disturbed?

**Read : Luke 1:46-56**

- How do these verses show that Mary truly believed that what the Lord had said to her will be accomplished?
- Which one of the acts of God described by Mary in these verses is most relevant or meaningful to you right now? Why do you think Mary focused on what God had "done" rather than what she hoped He would do?
- Do you tend to focus more on what God has done for you or what you hope He will do for you? How might focusing on what God has done give you hope for the future?

**Overall (Discovery Bible Study)**

- What do these scriptures say about God?
- What do they say about people?
- How will I apply this to my life?

**Look Ahead:**

This week, focus on what God has done for you and practice rejoicing and worshipping in faith that nothing is impossible for God.

**Group Leader Note**

"Mary's Song" is an excellent example of how focusing on what God has done can give us hope for an uncertain future. The simple act of remembering God's power and goodness can change our perspective from one of doubt and concern to one of awe, joy and worship. Encourage group members to write their own version of Mary's Song and share it with someone who needs hope at Christmas.