

ALREADY / NOT YET

WEEK 2

Growth Group Opener:

What is the best gift you've ever been given (besides Jesus/salvation)?

Read: Luke 1:46-55; Romans 15:13

In this passage, we see Mary's response to the miraculous gift of the Messiah growing within her. Mary's circumstances were fraught with judgment, misunderstanding, and disbelief, from those in her community. Yet, she sings this beautiful piece of poetry that lets us glimpse her heart and character.

What is Mary's focus?

Where do you see the already/not yet reflected in Mary's words?

What attributes of God does Mary highlight in her song?
How have you seen those attributes of God play out in your own life?

We see Romans 15:13 play out in Mary's song. How does this Scripture play out in your life? If it doesn't, what needs to shift in you to allow hope to overflow?

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Much of Mary's song is reminiscent of Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2.
How does recalling Scripture help us walk through challenging or unexpected situations?

Make it personal:

In what area(s) are you waiting currently?

Where do you feel God calling you to respond with hope and joy, even when the circumstances might not deem it appropriate?

Optional Challenge:

Read and memorize Romans 15:13 this week. Write it on post-it notes and put them around the house, write it on your mirror with dry erase marker, read it to yourself on an voice memo on your phone and listen to it repeatedly...whatever it takes to commit it to memory.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the good gifts you give. Thank you for stepping down into our world, full of darkness, and into our lives that are messy. Thank you bringing light and joy into those spaces. Help us to see the light when we feel blind, and to feel joy in spite of our circumstances. And may you use us to show that light to others. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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