



## Sermon Discussion Questions

### "Making Christmas Last"

Luke 1:39-55

December 18, 2016

Visit the **Sermons** page on this website to see full video.

Openers:

Who do you contact first when you have tough or sad news to share? Why?

Can you recall a time when you were part of a hopeful minority among a group that was pessimistic or doubtful? If so, how did you feel?

Questions: [The following questions are meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the selected text. Feel free to ask your group your own questions regarding the sermon or text.]

1. Why do you suppose Mary went to Zechariah's home to greet Elizabeth?
2. From the words of this song (46-55), what kind of family did Mary come from? Concerned citizens? Children of Abraham? Humble and hungry? Discuss.
3. How did Mary envision herself? Lowly servant? Surrogate mother? Ordinary person? Greatly blessed? Deserving? Special? Discuss.
4. What do you appreciate most about Mary? Humble background? Humble spirit? She gave God all the glory for her blessings? She had faith to believe that the amazing things she heard would be accomplished?

Application:

5. What things that Mary and Elizabeth did are important to you in a friendship? Sharing a special experience? Taking time to visit each other? Talking about their faith?
6. What might you need to share with an "Elizabeth" right now? A joy you've been wanting to share? A burden you need to get out? Questions about faith? Just a genuine interaction?
7. Which of the words found in Mary's song best describes how you are feeling about your spiritual life? Rejoicing? Humble? Proud? Lifted up? Hungry? Empty?

Take some time to pray together as a group, that God would meet you where you are in your spiritual life. Ask the Holy Spirit to come, and to give you spiritual insight both as individuals and as a group. What do you need to offer one another in order to grow and mature in your life together as disciples of Jesus?

\*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).