

Magnify

Magnify His Mindfulness - Week 1

Note: You may find the Message Podcasts & Group Guides in this series at actschurchlakeway.com.. This is all also found on the ACTS Lakeway smartphone app, available for download in the app store for your phone or tablet.

Group Connection Point

- What are some hopes that you have for 2018? What do you hope to see continued from 2017 and what would you like to leave behind?

Group Discussion Questions for 'Magnify His Mindfulness' - Week 1

1. When people think of you, what do you imagine are some of the words or traits they use to describe you? What do you think were some of the words or traits people would have used to describe Mary?
2. Mary is an important starting point for this series as she is the author of the 'Magnificat.' These words come from Luke 1:46-55. Before reading through these verses, what is the context Mary finds herself in right now? What emotions would you expect her to be feeling? Based on her circumstances, what words might she use to describe God?

Read Luke 1:46-55

3. Having discussed what you would assume her overall emotions and feelings to be based on the circumstances, what state do we see her in based on these words? What is going through her head at this time?
4. Based on this time period and culture, what would a woman who was pregnant out of wedlock expect from the culture she was in? In verse 48, in spite of that, we see Mary identify God's actions towards her as being, 'mindful.' What do you think this is meant to mean?
5. Mary, while in the midst of incredible stress, anxiety, fear, and a multitude of other emotions is able to identify herself as being 'blessed' by the situation. What is a time that you faced something incredibly difficult, only to realize it was a blessing from God? What was the turning point for you to realize this truth?
6. There is a level of understanding that Mary has to reach for this feeling and recognition to take place. She has to see God as good and for her. What is a hurdle most people deal with in getting to that view of God? What might help them get over and past that?

Read Psalm 138

7. David was a human with plenty of faults. And yet, he was able to pen this Psalm where he states that God, 'looks kindly on the lowly.' What does that mean for God to look 'kindly on the

lowly?' What does that mean in your life?

8. If God looks kindly on the lowly and is a mindful God towards us, how might we do the same? Who is the 'lowly,' you might be called to be mindful of in your life?

Individual Journaling and Reflection Questions for 'Magnify His Mindfulness' - Week 1

- Mary had to take time in her pain to reflect on her relationship with God. As you begin a new year, where are you at with your relationship? What is going well? What would you like to change?
- Mary identifies her state as 'humble' in the mindfulness that God is displaying on her. What is a positive way that God might be humbling you now? What might you have to gain through this process?

Prayer for 'Magnify His Mindfulness' - Week 1

As you take time to pray in your small group or throughout the week on your own, here are some ideas and concepts which may help focus your prayers:

- Pray for recognition of the difficult parts of your life as opportunity for God to show his love and grace.
- Pray for humility as you live your life.
- Pray thanksgiving that God is mindful and present with you, opposed to being distant. Recognize his presence in your life on a daily basis.