

God in the Midst of Hope

Luke 1:39–56

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NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- How is hope different from optimism, or fantasy, or our wants or goals for the future?
- *Read Luke 1:39–56.* Looking only at the circumstances of Mary and Elizabeth, what challenges lay in front of these two pregnant women? What might cause them to feel hopeless?
- How does Elizabeth bless and encourage Mary? What do you imagine they said and did together during their three-month visit? How might this ground and grow hope in each of them?
- In the opening of Mary's response, known as the *Magnificat*, what does she mean by "My soul magnifies the Lord"? How can magnifying the Lord develop greater hope in us?
- What past actions of God does Mary recount? What does this reveal about God and God's work in the world? How might rehearsing this increase hope?
- What in our world or in your life leads you toward a sense of hopelessness these days? How have you experienced this? How have you responded?
- Whether alone or with others, what are some ways you can magnify the Lord this Advent season? What past actions of God's faithfulness can you recount? How will this root your hope for the future in God's presence and character?
- Who can solidify and support hope in you as Elizabeth did for Mary? Whom might God want you to bless and encourage toward a Christ-centered hope? What specific steps can you take this week to receive and give true hope?