

The Prayer of Mary

The PRAYER OF PRAISE PART 2

LUKE 1:39-56

5. In verse 50, Mary's focus shifts to include "those who fear him / from generation to generation." What do you think it means to fear God?

6. Why would fearing God be connected to God's mercy (v. 50)?

7. What reversals of roles or statuses does Mary attribute to God in verses 51 to 53?

8. Have you seen reversals like these in your life or in the lives of others you know? If so, describe the circumstances.

9. Reread verse 45. In what ways do Mary and her prayer exemplify the description in this verse of a blessed person?

10. Mary's prayer expresses her conviction that God is powerful and also willing to intervene in the lives of people who need help. How does this combination of attributes make you feel toward God?

11. Name some of the situations and people in your life that you need God to intervene powerfully for.

12. In what ways do you (or how can you start to) express your belief in both God's power and his willingness to intervene in our lives?

Spend some time praising God for his power and love, and then pray for the people and situations where his power and love are needed.

Now or Later

As you begin this study guide, consider your desires and dreams for your prayer life. Spend some time reflecting on, journaling about or discussing the ways you would like to grow and develop your own prayer practices. What do you like about the way you pray, both alone and with others? What aspects of your current prayer life are not satisfying? In what ways would you like to grow in prayer? Spend some time praying about the role of prayer in your life, confessing your shortcomings to God, asking for God's guidance for ways to grow in prayer and telling God your dreams for your prayer life.

Psalms is often called "the prayer book of the Bible," and in this study each New Testament prayer is paired with a passage from Psalms that has some of the same themes. Read Psalm 145 twice,

the first time to get an overview of what the psalm is about and the ways it mirrors Mary's prayer, and then the second time slowly, praying the words of the psalm as you read.¹

¹ Baab, L. M. (2010). [*Prayers of the New Testament: 8 Studies for Individuals or Groups: With Notes for Leaders*](#) (pp. 8–12). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press.