

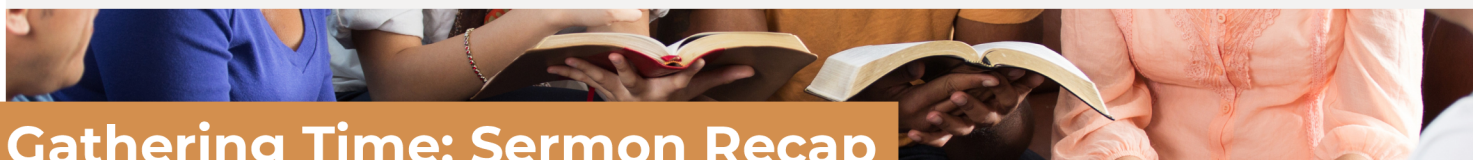
## How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

### What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



## Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

# Mary's Song: Humility in God's Presence

This week, Bishop Helsley preached the first message in a new series called *Christmas Playlist*. This series will examine biblical “songs” (a poetic prayer of praise) about the Savior. In today’s message, Bishop preached on Mary’s Song. The context and song can be found in **Luke 1:26-55**.

The young, unwed virgin, Mary, had recently been told by the angel that she would soon be expecting a child, Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit. Her response? “I am the Lord’s servant.” What a humble display of how she surrendered to God’s will!

Mary then went to visit her relative, Elizabeth, who was also expecting a miraculous baby. Elizabeth’s child (John) leapt within her womb just to be in the presence of our unborn Savior. Elizabeth’s joy and John’s leap confirm what the angel had told Mary about Jesus. It’s a remarkable story!

Mary, full of faith and worship, then responds with a beautiful song of praise. She expresses

humility by magnifying and rejoicing in God, praising His might and holiness. She then mentions “reversals”— saying that God shows mercy to those who fear Him, scatters the proud, exalts the humble, fills the hungry, and sends the rich away empty. (Sometimes God chooses to do what seems opposite to the expected outcome.) Mary then refers back to the promise that God had made to Israel. God had promised that a Savior would come from Israel, the line of David, and now this Savior, Jesus, would soon be here!

Mary was a humble servant (vv. 38 and 48). Examining her response reminds us to beware of pride. Pride comes in a variety of forms. Pride can believe that “no one is better than me”, but it can also believe that “no one is worse than me.” It can also idolize our wants and desires.

Like Mary, we are all confronted with our Savior’s presence. Will you respond with humility and worship? Do you have any pride to confess? Set your heart to follow Jesus in humble surrender today and always.

## Group Time: Questions

### Conversation Starter

Ask: Have you ever waited for something special?  
How did you feel when the waiting was over?

### Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the biblical context of Mary's song? Why did she praise God this way?
- What did Bishop say about biblical "songs"? What words in the passage show Mary's emotion and praise?
- If you didn't know much about the Lord, what could you learn about Him—just from this passage?

- **Track 2:** How did Elisabeth and her unborn baby respond to the Savior? (v41-45) Mary? (v46-55) Do you respond with such joy and praise?
- How does God's mercy extend to those who fear Him? (v50) How have you seen His mercy?
- Do you know anyone who needs to hear about the Savior's mercy? When will you share?

- **Track 3:** What verse of themes from Mary's song most resonated with you?
- God promised a Savior to Israel since the time of Abraham (vv 54-55) and before (Ge 3:15). How important is it that God keeps His promises?
- How does keeping our word witness to others?



### God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Luke 1:39-45. What stands out to you? Why?
- **Tuesday:** Read Luke 1:46-49. Does your soul magnify and glorify the Lord? Why? Make a list of some of the reasons.
- **Wednesday:** Read Luke 1:50-53. What extends to you? What mighty deeds have you seen God do? What does He do with the proud? Humble?
- **Thursday:** Read Luke 1:54-55. The world had been waiting for a Savior for a very long time. How did God show mercy?
- **Friday:** Reread Luke 1:46-55. Now, write your own short "song of praise" (a poetic-ish prayer) glorifying God for keeping His promises and being merciful. Share with someone what He's done for you.



### God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** Luke 1:46-55 from an easy-to-read Bible version (like the ERV).
- Give a **summary** statement like: "God promised to send us Jesus way before He was ever born. He loves us so much! Mary was excited that God chose her to be Jesus' mother, so she praised Him. She knew that God was showing mercy to the whole world by sending His Son."
- **Ask:** Do you know what mercy is?
- **Say:** Mercy is kindness that we can't earn.
- **Activity:** Have your family praise God for being kind and merciful. Talk about all of the ways He blesses you; talk about Jesus and His forgiveness. Then, write a short "song of praise" or joyful prayer. If your kids want to sing or march to it, do it! Later, post about your "song" on social media, explaining what your family did and why.

**Give:** *How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?*