

AEMMC Life Groups

Dec. 19-Dec. 25



Luke 1:46b-55

*“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his Name!
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud
in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful to Abraham
and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”*

Discuss

Imagine that you live in a country with constant oppression. You may be arrested at any time without charge. The taxes are crippling and go to a far off government that you will never see. You can be forced to do labor for the occupying army. Religious freedom is ok but with restrictions.

But – God has promised a Deliverer. He will be a just King and his rule will not end. You have been waiting for this King, the Messiah, about four hundred years.

Suddenly – the day arrives. You hear stories of old men prophesying, and old women having children. Suddenly there is a man speaking the words of God, and people are healed and set free.

Could this be Messiah? Are we saved at last? Will the rule of Rome and her godless Emperors finally end?

Discuss

Who are the oppressed in our world? In our community? What kind of Deliverer do they wait for?

The arrival of Jesus in the world, not with a conquering army but in the weakness of flesh, tells us much about God's desire to care for us. God challenges the might of Roman armies with a baby.

What kind of world have we created with the use of power? What kind of world would God create through weakness and vulnerability?

Read Together: Matthew 1:23

“Behold, a virgin shall bear a son, and his name will be called Emmanuel (which means, “God with us”).”

How are these hopes realized in the coming of Jesus and the breaking in of God’s kingdom?

How can your group become like Jesus “good news to the poor?” How can you bring “freedom for captives,” or “comfort to those who mourn?”

Pray for neighbours who do not know Christ or His peace. Pray that the life of Jesus might be made known through you to others.