



Home Worship Guide – Luke 1: 39-56

Complement to sermon on December 9th, 2012

MEMORIZE

Luke 1:38

“‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’ Then the angel left her.”

READ

Read Luke 1: 26-56

Mary sees clearly a most remarkable thing about God: He is about to change the course of all human history. The most important three decades in all of time are to begin. And where is God? Occupying himself with two obscure, humble women – one old and barren (Elizabeth), one young and virginal (Mary). And Mary is so moved by this vision of God, the lover of the lowly, that she breaks out in song – a song that has come to be known as ‘the Magnificat’ (Luke 1:46-56).

Mary and Elizabeth are wonderful heroines in Luke’s account. He loves the faith of these women. The thing that impresses him most, it appears, and the thing he wants to impress on Theophilus, his noble reader, is the lowliness and cheerful humility of Elizabeth and Mary. Elizabeth says, “Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord would come to me?” (v43). And Mary says, “He has looked on the humble estate of his servant” (v48).

The only people whose soul can truly magnify the Lord are people like Elizabeth and Mary – people who acknowledge their lowly estate and are overwhelmed by the condescension of the magnificent God.

(The above summary was taken from John Piper’s free e-book “Good News of Great Joy”)

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. What is the difference between humility and low self-worth? Can a humble person be both humble and confident? What is Christian humility?
2. What does humility look, act, and sound like?
3. Why is humility difficult?
4. Why are we called to be humble?

Bottom Line: If we are to truly magnify Jesus Christ, it starts with viewing ourselves with complete humility.

SING

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sU8MAQKSbEI>)

When we humble ourselves, it is God who lifts us up.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool (up to 5)

- Talk about how serving others is a sign of humility
- Think of ways you can serve. Write down at least 3 ways and commit to doing them this week.
- Have one for family, one for friends and one for neighbors

Children (K-5th)

- You will need a piece of paper 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", a flat surface (tabletop) & a bottle with a less than 1" opening
- Begin by asking your children to list things they are tempted to be proud about. Write these down on the piece(s) of paper
- Take that list and crumple it into a tight ball. Have your children practice blowing the paper around on the flat surface.
- Once they have mastered this, hold the bottle horizontally at the edge of the table so its mouth is level with the surface. Let the children take turns trying to blow the paper ball into the mouth of the bottle. (Since the bottle is full of air, the ball will not go in).
- Explain that the ball represents pride. The bottle represents us. When we acknowledge that we need God's help in life, we are humble. Humility is often demonstrated by a person bowing down. The bottle on its side is in a bowed position. If we stay humble, honoring God instead of ourselves, pride has a hard time getting into our hearts. On the other hand, when we become self-confident and forget to honor and trust in our own ability to resist sin, the sin of pride can easily sneak up on us.

Students (6th-12th)

- Foot-washing has been a staple of the Mennonite faith for many years
- Jesus demonstrated humility on the night of the last supper by washing his disciples feet
- Take time in your family and show humility by washing each other's feet. Notice to wash someone's foot you have to basically bow down to them.
- Discuss what this was like. What was it like washing feet? What was it like getting your feet washed?

PRAY

Lord, we pray that you would give us humble hearts. Jesus we ask that as we humble ourselves, you would lift us up and use us for your glory and for your kingdom.