

PRAYER OF SURRENDER: MARY

GREAT PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | AUGUST 5, 2018 | LUKE 1:26-38, 46-55

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38)

Surrendering to God's Word (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary receives the angel Gabriel (1:26-28)

Mary receives God's Word to her (1:30-33, 35-37)

Surrendering with Humility (Luke 1:29, 34, 38, 48)

Mary's humble questions (1:29, 34)

Mary's humble service (1:38)

Mary's humble situation (1:48)

Surrendering with Joyful Gratitude (Luke 1:46-55)

Joy in God's Activity on Her Behalf (1:46-49)

Joy in God's Activity on Behalf of the Humble Everywhere (1:50-53)

Joy in God's Activity on Behalf of His Covenant People (1:54-55)

Learning to Pray with Mary

Receiving God's Word in Our Lives

Responding to God with Humility

Responding to God with Joyful Gratitude

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you experienced a special gift in your life from someone or specifically from God? What happened? How did you express your gratitude?
2. This week we continue our "Great Prayers of the Bible" series by looking at Mary's prayer in Luke 1:26-38, 46-56. Ask God to speak to you and then, whether you are with a group or on your own, read that passage aloud.
3. Background: Mary is a young woman in a relatively small town in the northern region of Galilee. She is in the first stage of two-stage marriage process, involving the public promise of marriage (like engagement) before the final marriage ceremony when a husband would take his wife home, sometimes up to a year later.
4. The angel Gabriel appears to Mary with a great message about a miraculous child to come. What do you make of Gabriel's greeting to Mary in Luke 1:28?
5. How does Gabriel describe this promised child in Luke 1:30-33, 35-37?
6. How would you characterize Mary's response to this dramatic announcement in 1:34 and 38?
7. How might you respond if you were in Mary's situation?
8. After this, Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth, where she speaks a psalm of response to God about this miracle child. Mary's song in Luke 1:46-56, known by its Latin name the Magnificat, is one of the most personal and powerful prayers in the Bible. What are some of the themes of Mary's psalm of praise?
9. What stands out to you personally from Mary's song?
10. If you were to compose your own psalm of praise to God for things in your life, what would it sound like? Maybe you could take time to write a psalm of praise to God yourself right now.
11. What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you through this study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.

TAKE IT FURTHER: Mark your calendars for the City-wide Prayer Walk on August 18. More info here: eastbrook.org/summerofprayer.