

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Luke 1:46-56

Sunday, December 8, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What truths in Luke 1:46-56 have been magnified for you as you have studied this lesson so you understand these truths of God better?

That God is holy and He conceived Jesus in Mary in a way that was holy (unlike pagan mythologies).

2. When someone first realizes that God is their Savior through Jesus, what new reasons do they have for rejoicing in God?

They can rejoice in God because they have learned that God has forgiven them and they can live at peace with God. They can rejoice in God because they have learned that God will be with them and they can follow Jesus all the way to heaven.

3. When someone has followed Jesus as their Lord and Savior for a long time, what additional reasons might they have from experience for rejoicing in God?

They can rejoice in God because when they have sinned, God has mercifully worked in their lives and led them to repent of their sin and ask Jesus to forgive them for their sin. They can rejoice because Jesus has helped them not to sin again and Jesus has given them power to do right and Jesus has restored their peace with God after they have sinned and repented. They can rejoice because they can look back over their lives and see many blessings that God has given to them because they have lived with faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They can rejoice because they can look back and see many ways that God has saved them when they were in trouble. They can rejoice because they can look back and see how God has answered many of their prayers, even answered their prayers that God would use them to teach about Jesus and the Bible and lead others to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

4. What type of person does Mary say God will be merciful toward?

His mercy is for those who fear Him, and this is a promise for those of any generation (Luke 1:50). If we reverence God, He will be merciful toward us. If we have a fear of God because we know that we have sinned against a holy God and we want to be right with God, God will be merciful toward us (God will help us come to saving faith in Jesus Christ).

5. What are some of the actions God will take to help those He will be merciful toward?

God will do great things for us, including saving us from sin and Satan's power. He will give us His strength and empower us to defeat our spiritual enemies and sometimes our physical enemies in this life: "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

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