

## Dec 17 - Small Group Questions - The first Christmas Carol

### Luke 1:39-56

1. Greg Beale in his book *You Become what you Worship* said “we will either revere the world and be conformed to its patterns and desires or worship God and be progressively conformed to his likeness. How do we see this work itself out in our own lives, in our world?

### **Read Luke 1:26-39**

2. Put yourself in Mary’s shoes. What emotions/thoughts/concerns would be floating through your mind? Could this explain why she runs? (vs. 39)

### **Read Luke 1:39-45**

3. Why do you think Mary wanted to see her kinswoman Elizabeth? What do you think Mary hoped to get out of the visit?
4. Mary is moved to worship in this encounter with the Holy Spirit’s work in community. How is community key to our growth in faith and stirring up life-changing worship?

### **Read Luke 1:46-56**

5. What characteristics does Mary praise God for? How are each of these characteristics central to the Christmas message?
6. Mary sings of revolution – a new humanity, a new society, the dawning of a new creation. How are each of these things central to the life and work of Jesus?
7. Mary sings of these things in the past tense. What does this tell us about the reality of the kingdom? How we are to live in light of it?
8. How does worshipping God for his character and work progressively conform us to his likeness?