

04 – Mary and Elizabeth **Luke 1:39-56**

Step 1: Link (back to last semester)

We are reading the book of Luke. Our story is in Luke chapter 1. We have read about an angel who told about two very special babies. The angel's name is - ? (... Gabriel) And the babies are - ? (... John and Jesus)

Step 2: Background (God's promise, Abraham and Sarah's shortcut)

We know Jesus' mother's name was - ? (... Mary) What was the name of John's mother? (... Elizabeth) Let's look at something about Mary and Elizabeth. Look at v. 36. The angel Gabriel is talking to Mary. He mentions Elizabeth. What does Gabriel call Elizabeth? (v. 36 ... your relative) Mary and Elizabeth were relatives. Elizabeth was very old, and Mary was very young. But they were relatives. Elizabeth's baby John was a kind of cousin to Mary's baby Jesus. God loves the family. Here we see God doing His wonderful work through one family.

Now that Mary knows about Elizabeth's baby, she wants to visit Elizabeth. Let's read about their visit.

Step 3: Key Questions

- **What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth?** (v.41,44: *Elizabeth's unborn baby jumped for joy; became happy and moved*)
- **How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth?** (v.56: *three months*)

Step 4: Read Luke 1:39-56

Step 5: Answer the questions

Step 6: Talk about it

We see these two women praising God together for the special blessing He has given them. They were from the same family, so they already had a relationship. That relationship made it possible for Mary and Elizabeth to share their experiences very deeply in love. This also shows God's mercy.

Let's look at what Mary says. Her long poem of praise is very well known in the West. It is called "The Magnificat" (*write and practice*) because "magnificat" is the first word in Latin. It means "magnify" or "make bigger." We can see more of God's greatness because of what He did in Mary's life.

Let's re-read the Magnificat. While we read, please choose a verse that stands out to you. What verse do you think is wonderful? What verse surprises you? What verse touches your heart – in a good way, or a bad way? After we read, let's tell each other.

Read Luke 1:46-55. *(The point here is to try a little deeper kind of Bible study with them, to get them to interact a little more personally with the text. Encourage them to share, there are no right or wrong answers. But don't prod them. It'll be a delicate balance.)*

Can anybody tell about a verse? There is not a right answer. This is your opinion, your feeling. (. . .)

What verse do you think is wonderful? (. . .)

What verse surprises you? (. . .)

What verse touches your heart – in a good way or a bad way? (. . .)

Do you have any questions about any of these verses? (. . .)

(Don't forget to share your own impression!)

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. After three months, would she look fatter because of her baby? (... yes, I think so . . . a little)

Do you have any questions or comments?

Teacher's Notes:

1. The ellipses (. . .) are there to remind you to wait quietly for your students to answer the questions.
2. Some sharp-eyed students may have noticed last week that the women were relatives. If so, just remind them of that here and go on!
3. Verse 46 in Latin: "Et ait Maria: Magnificat anima mea Dominum"
4. It wouldn't hurt to write the Magnificat questions on the board. Or have them written on a piece of (laminated) paper. I'm planning to use this technique again when we do Zechariah's praise.