

## Songs of Praise - Luke 1:39-80

### *Question to Begin*

- What is the most surprising invitation you have ever received?

### *Questions on the Text*

- Why do you think Mary is in such a hurry to see Elizabeth (Lk 1:39)?
- In their prayers, both Mary & Zechariah praise God for doing certain things. Make a list of Mary's reasons for praise, then of Zechariah's. How do the two compare? What picture of God emerges?
- According to Lk 1:50, 1:72 & 1:78, what seems to be God's fundamental attitude towards the world? How would you describe the particular characteristic that is being highlighted?
- What does "fear" mean in Lk 1:65? In 1:74?

### *Questions for Application*

- Elizabeth rejoices whole-heartedly in what God has done for Mary. Do you generally respond this way to someone else's good news, or do you struggle with envy & resentment?
- How does Mary experience God's mercy? How do Zechariah & Elizabeth experience it? What do their experiences reveal about the mercy God wishes to extend to you? To the world?
- Over the course of your life, who have been the messengers sent to smooth your way to God? How have you received them? For whom is God calling you to perform the same service?

