

## I. CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing?
- Reflect on last week's challenge:  
*"Spend some time this week reflecting on the ways in which God's grace is at work in your life. The hope is that this reflection will give you an assurance that you are saved."*

## II. SCRIPTURE

### LUKE 1:47-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### THE FIVE REVERSALS

**The First Reversal** is that the lowly are worthy of being used by God.

**The Second Reversal** is that those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations will be scattered and humbled.

**The Third Reversal** is that God will bring down the powerful and raise up those without status or rights.

**The Fourth Reversal** is that God will fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty-handed.

**The Fifth and Final Reversal** is that despite all the pain and suffering that the Israelites have experienced, God is about to extend aid and mercy to them and bring them out of their suffering.

## III. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

## IV. CHALLENGE

Assume that you started living as if heaven has already come. Reflect on what difference that would have on your life.

## V. DISCUSSION

- What stands out to you from today's scripture?
- Advent is the season through which it is proclaimed that God's kingdom is coming and everything is about to be turned upside-down. As you look around, what are some things that need to be turned upside down this advent? Why these?
- Mary's prayer lifts up five reversals that the world will experience because of Jesus. (See section II). How would these reversals take place in today's day and age?
- Sometimes we believe something to be so true that we begin to live as if it had already happened. Have you ever experienced this?
- What would change about the way we view the needs of this world if we lived as if heaven had already come.