

These notes are designed to be used by small groups on Zoom, by members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. They are based on our Sunday sermons and are designed to help us all think through the issues raised about “God in my Everything”. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

## Sermon Date

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December Jane Hulme

## Bible Passage

Luke 1:39-55

## Theme & Introduction

This study focuses mainly upon Mary’s song, The Magnificat.

## Questions

1. Read together Luke 1:39-55
2. Share together experiences from your own life that have brought you joy; joy that has led you to celebrate in some way.
3. Have you ever considered that when Mary said “yes” to God’s calling of her, that she would embark upon a journey of not only joy, but also of great cost?
  - Think through Mary’s life, from the time of Jesus’ conception to Jesus’ ascension and see what examples of personal cost, Mary faced.
  - In what ways do you **expect** Jesus’ calling of you to be costly?
  - What in your experience of following Him **has** been costly?
4. How challenging do you find Pauls’ encouragement to “*Rejoice in the Lord always?*” (Philippians 4:4)
  - When do you find it easiest / hardest to rejoice in the Lord?
  - Can you say with Mary: “*The Mighty One has done great things for me?*” (Luke1:49)
  - Share what “great things” God has done for you.
5. Jane said that not only did Mary rejoice in what God had done for her, but she also rejoiced in God’s character, in particular His mercy.
  - If you were asked to define God’s mercy, what would you say?
  - How have you experienced God’s mercy?
6. How do we help one another to keep our focus upon the Lord, so that when things in our lives are difficult and challenging, we can continue to rejoice, rather than either sinking into despair or into grumbling and complaining?