



WEEK 2 DEVOTIONAL  
FALL ON YOUR KNEES

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RECEIVE

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Slowly. Prayerfully, read out loud **Luke 1:26–56**. Before and after each reading, pause for a moment of silence. In that silence pray asking the spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scriptures. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn from?

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REFLECT

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1. Many often forget that Mary was a real person and experienced real human emotions. Verse 34 captures her genuine confusion. How comfortable are you expressing your emotions and questions to God? What do you need to express to Him today?
2. Verse 38 shows Mary's immediate agreement when Gabriel announces God's plan. How do you usually respond when God directs you? Do you hesitate? Do you immediately comply?
3. Verses 39–45 capture a particularly touching scene. Elizabeth, who is experiencing her own miraculous pregnancy, marvels at God's work in Mary's life. Are you looking for God's work in the lives of people around you or mostly focused on your own life? Who can you encourage and celebrate God's work in that person's life?

4. Mary declares that God has done great things for her. What great things has God done for you? What great thing has God done for you most recently?
5. How often do you take time to marvel at God's work in your life? Do you have a regular practice for this? If you don't have a regular practice for this, the examen is a great way to be intentional about marveling at God's work in your life.

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## RESPOND

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*Never, ever, ever, ever, ever think that God's not working, no matter how much it seems like he's absent and at the same time never, never, never, never think you're going to be able to figure out for a long time what he's up to.*

– Tim Keller

Journal about a time when God worked in a very different way than you expected. How did God surprise you? How did this affect your trust in God's power and provision? Next, think about a situation where you need God to work. Pray for God's help with that situation specifically, knowing that God often works in unexpected ways.

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## SCRIPTURE

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**Luke 1:5–25; 57–80** New International Version

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of

God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.” <sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. <sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors.”

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

