

Luke 1:39-55

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Luke 1:49

MEMORY VERSE

For the Mighty One has done great things
for me—holy is his name. Luke 1:49

If your teenager attends church, it is safe to say that worship plays a large role in his or her spiritual life . . . as it should. Hang around teenagers long enough, however, and the question will inevitably come up: Do teenagers know whom they are worshipping?

The answer is yes and no. Many teenage Christians have a strong, rich faith. They lovingly worship God out of an overflow of joy for what He has done for them. But some teenagers do not know God as well as they might. Is their worship less sincere? Probably not. And God values their worship if it is heartfelt. But, there is a kind of worship that is an emotional reaction to God’s work in our lives.

Read the account of Mary’s song in Luke 1:39-55. Through Mary’s song we can tell she knew God intimately. She began by detailing God’s faithfulness to her personally. She referred to events from the Old Testament. She sang of

God’s mercy to those who “fear him.” She recalled His “mighty deeds.” Mary may have recalled God’s words to Abraham, promising that through Abraham’s offspring all the nations on earth would be blessed. Mary now knew this promised blessing would come through her son, Jesus Christ.

Mary’s song was spontaneous, powerful praise. Because of her relationship with God, because she felt God’s work in her, her heart overflowed with praise. This is a pattern we should follow.

As you talk daily with your teenagers, consider these two things: How well do you know God? And, do you show a praise-filled heart? Teach your teenagers about God. Help them learn who He is. Be a person whose praises to God are the spontaneous eruption of a grateful heart.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME

Connect . . .

How well do you know your family members? Go around the room and have the group try to answer the following three questions about each family member: What is your favorite movie? What is your favorite food? If you could do anything in the world, what would it be?

Let everyone have a chance to share. **Then read:** It would be safe to say that the quality of our relationships could be judged based on how well we know each other. What about our relationship with God? How well do we know Him?

Explore . . .

Have someone read Luke 1:39-55. **Read:** Mary’s praise to God showed two things. First, that she knew God. She knew what He had done for her in the past. And second, that her response to what God had done for her was heartfelt, loving worship.

Transform . . .

Discuss: How is our praise and worship different when we have a deep, real knowledge of God? What can we do to get to know God better?

Pray that your family will have a deeper walk with God. Take time to praise God as a family, worshipping Him out of the love you have for Him in your heart.