

# REFLECTION GUIDE

2.18.24

## INTRO

How does our culture define who is a *somebody*? Often it has to do with money, power, influence, followers, etc. But for Jesus, a *somebody* is one who helps a so-called *nobody* realize that they are actually a *somebody*. This is what Christ did throughout his ministry!

## THOUGHTS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PRAYER

Loving God, you worked out your plan to show love to this world through ordinary people like Mary and Elizabeth. That gives me hope! I am ready to follow you in whatever it is that you have for me to do. Give me your strength and the courage I need to keep an open mind about the plans you have for my life. Amen.

## DIGGING DEEPER

- Think of a time when you felt like an outsider or felt unimportant. What made you feel that way?
- Read Luke 1:26-49. In Elizabeth and Mary’s culture, no male leader of their day (let alone an angel) would have greeted a woman of almost no status by saying, “Greetings you who are highly favored.” So Mary sang that God lifts up the lowly. She and Elizabeth were examples of how God uses ordinary people.
  - What stands out to you most about this passage?
  - A childless older woman and a single teen from a backwater town were both given key roles in God’s saving plan. Can you think of another example of a society’s so-called “nobody” being used in a powerful way by God?
  - Sometimes, we don’t feel worthy or ready to follow God. Elizabeth affirmed and encouraged Mary because she knew God was at work despite Mary’s social standing. Have you ever been in the position of needing that type of encouragement? Have you ever been able to provide that for someone else?
  - Is there anyone that comes to mind who might need your affirmation today?
- In what ways have you learned to listen to God’s voice speaking into your life? Do you feel ready to respond to God as Mary did? Why or why not?