

Create



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Breath of God

Ask someone to read Isaiah 9:1-7. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Isaiah speaks of this “baby” that will be born in chapter 7-9 and the baby will be a sign of God’s presence with the people of Israel. He is even referred to as Immanuel or *God With Us* in chapter 7. When Handel declares this in his grand work, the *Messiah*, or when Matthew calls Jesus, Immanuel in chapter 1, they are expressing their belief that Jesus is the fulfillment of this divine promise. They each know this is the way God works—through the simple birth of a child—God fulfills his gracious purpose for us. Mary, mother of Jesus, speaks about the way God works in Luke 1:46 – 55, in what is referred to as the *Magnificat*.

Invite each participant to choose either the Writing or Visual approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ Create—Writing

Read Mary’s song or the *Magnificat* from Luke 1:46-55. Then, write a journal entry written from Mary’s perspective. Use parts of this scripture in your writing, but go beyond what is written in your Bible. Dig deeper into Mary’s emotions and feelings as you write. When you have finished, read the journal entry and close in prayer.

✓ Create—Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Read Mary’s song or the *Magnificat* from Luke 1:46-55. Create a piece of art using this imagery. You may choose to focus on a pregnant Mary or the Christ-child she will give birth to, either is fine. Don’t

be confined to the images presented by the text, read between the lines and imagine what might be going on. Create, then pray.

✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✓ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for the gift of the Christ-child, but also the significant contributions of your servant, Mary.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group’s special gathering place).

By Carra Hughes Greer

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