

Worshiping the Wonder of God

For the week of Dec. 9, 2018

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

GOAL: Invite the wonder of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ to lead us to worship Him every day of our lives.

GET GOING:

1. Mary gave us a beautiful example of how to “magnify” the Lord—how to show off His greatness. As Pastor Ron said, “she gave Him credit for all things, all His paths, all His promises.” How do you best magnify the Lord? Is it when you enjoy what He’s created? The majesty, the power, the mystery of nature? Is it in music that expresses His beauty? Is it through words? Think about how you best communicate your devotion to God. As you share your various ways, what new area of worship would you like to explore?
2. How does Luke 1:26-56 give us a glimpse into the young woman God chose to be Jesus’ mom. What do we know about Mary from her interactions with Gabriel and Elizabeth? How is she just like us? Which of her responses do you think pleased the Lord?
3. Mary says, “he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.” (Luke 1:49). If you know Jesus as your personal Savior, what great things has He done for you? What great things is He doing for you today? How does this prompt you to worship Him with your whole heart?
4. In our study this week, we explored five reasons why we worship God in wonder.
 - I worship the Lord because He knows and loves me. (Luke 1:46-48)
 - I worship the Lord because He helps and cares for me. (Luke 1:49)
 - I worship the Lord because He gives grace and mercy. (Luke 1:50)
 - I worship the Lord because He provides and protects me. (Luke 1:51-53)
 - I worship the Lord because He leads and guides me. (Luke 1:54-55)



How do you see God's hand in your life right now in one of these areas? Magnify the Lord with each other by expressing His goodness to you. Say, "I worship the Lord because _____." (Example, "I worship the Lord because He gives me grace. He forgave me of my critical spirit this week and gave me opportunities to make it right...")

KEEP GROWING:

5. We grow when we intentionally focus on our relationship with the Lord. Look back at question #4 above. Spend some time thinking about how each statement is true in your life—and then express to the Lord your gratitude and worship. Give Him credit for all things, all His paths, all His promises. If you keep a journal, write these five "I worship the Lord" statements out and brainstorm personal examples. Let this exercise enlarge your view of God at work in your life.

6. God's character is often expressed in the Bible by unique names people give Him, expressing how they magnify the Lord. Pastor Ron highlighted a few of God's names. Consider these names of God and the role they play in your own life:

Jehovah Jireh: "The Lord Will Provide." Abraham first called God this in Genesis 22:14 when He provided the ram to be sacrificed in place of his son, Isaac. Can you call God, Jehovah Jireh?

Jehovah Rapha: "The Lord Who Heals." Exodus 15:26 says "I am Jehovah who heals you" both in body and soul. In body, by protecting and curing diseases, and in soul, by forgiving sin. Can you call God, Jehovah Rapha?

Jehovah Nissi: "The Lord Our Banner." A banner is a rallying place where there is victory (like against enemies in Exodus 17:15). Can you call God, Jehovah Nissi?

Jehovah M'kaddesh: "The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy." Only God can forgive sin and make us clean (Leviticus 20:8; Ezekiel 37:28). Can you call God, Jehovah M'kaddesh?

Jehovah Shalom: "The Lord Our Peace." Gideon first called God this in Judges 6:24. Peace is that wholeness of life that comes from being in right relationship with God. Can you call God, Jehovah Shalom?

Jehovah Ra-ah: "The Lord Our Shepherd." David first called God His shepherd in Psalm 23:1 because of God's care and protection. Can you call God, Jehovah Ra-ah?



What name would you call God today? Not on this list? Make up a new name for God, highlighting who He is or what He is doing in your life.

7. Pastor Ron prompted us to think about God's recent work in our lives and letting that prompt faith for His future provision. For example, as we reflect on God's past protection, it helps us remain confident in God's future provision. Think about that. Even as you face uncertainty in days ahead, remember what God's done in the past. As an expression of your faith, write a letter of thanks to God, giving Him credit for all His paths, all His promises, for all He's done for you and all that He wants to continue to do. Perhaps copy your letter in the back of your Bible to remind yourself of how He cares for you in the ways He sovereignly and justly knows is best.

Bonus Challenge: Memorize Psalm 100 as a group or by yourself. Which phrase is most meaningful to you? How does this Psalm enlarge your view of God?

Memory Verse: *"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior'" (Luke 1:46-47).*

