

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

December 22-23

“Right Side Up”

By Rev. Eric Moeller

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

Luke 1: 39-55; <https://bit.ly/2Ssh4i5>

Big Ideas Raised

- “In God’s saving work, there is a mysterious interplay of divine and human, or ordinary and extraordinary, or regular and miraculous.”
- Through being together, Mary and Elizabeth find that their experience and belief are validated, they come to understand themselves more deeply, and they come to see how they in their individual experiences and roles fit in the bigger picture of God’s saving work in the world. They come to see how their smaller stories fit within the larger story of God’s activity. This is what we do here at church as well.
- Mary’s song indicates an understanding that what she was participating in, God’s bigger picture of salvation, wasn’t really about her but a wider vision of God’s transformation of the world. Likewise, our faith isn’t centrally about us and our individual needs, but about participating in the transformation of the world through the sharing of the love of God we’ve received that seeks to turn the world right side up.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- Has there ever been a time when you entered a situation expecting to give something of yourself only to find that you end up receiving more than you could’ve hoped to give?
- Is there a particular time in your life when you particularly felt loved by God?
- What are some of the ways you have your individual needs met here at St. Lucas? Are there any particular moments that come to mind when you felt particularly supported, nurtured, loved, etc.?
- Pastor Eric spoke of God’s special love for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. Do you agree that this ‘preferential option for the poor,’ as it’s been named by liberation theologians, is part of God’s character? Why or why not? Does this perspective affect how you live out your faith?
- Are there ways that you see how your smaller story may fit within the larger story of God’s transformational, saving work in the world? How do you see yourself participating in that work now, and are there new ways you can imagine participating in that work moving forward?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend’s sermon, please visit:

<https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>