



Small group discussion questions December 2015/January 2016

Chapter & verse – Neil Thorogood (p18)

Read Luke 1:39-56, followed by Neil Thorogood's article.

1. What memories come to mind when you think of being told “really big news”? How did you respond to that news?
2. In paragraph three, Neil says: “Luke’s reasons for writing a gospel seem very 21st-Century.” What do you think Luke’s reasons were? Is he telling big news, and if so what is that news?
3. Neil talks in paragraph five of “the incredible significance that Mary and Elizabeth have”. What does Neil find in their stories? Are there also other ways in which they are significant?
4. In the same paragraph, Neil compares Zechariah’s doubts with Mary’s. Why do you think there were such different results in each case? Are there different ways of doubting? If so, are some better than others?
5. In paragraph six, Neil surveys some different ways of interpreting Mary’s song. Which do you find most convincing?
6. What kind of feelings and attitudes do we see in Mary’s song (1:46-55)? What picture of Mary does it give us?
7. At the end of “Chapter & verse”, Neil says: “This is how, on Mary’s lips, Luke sets the context for the birth of a baby.” What does the song tell us about Mary’s expectations of Jesus? How accurate a picture of Jesus does it give us?

