

A misty forest of evergreen trees with a mountain range in the background. The scene is bathed in a soft, blue-tinted light, creating a serene and atmospheric mood. The trees are densely packed, and the mist hangs low, partially obscuring the forest floor and the base of the mountains in the distance.

INBREAKING

POWER OF HOPE

I HOPE
YOU ENJOY
THIS PRESENT
MORE THAN
I DID WHEN I
RECEIVED IT

Just wanted to help spread
hope, peace, joy, and other
marketing buzzwords.



A misty forest of evergreen trees with a mountain range in the background. The scene is bathed in a soft, blueish light, suggesting a cool, early morning or late evening atmosphere. The trees are densely packed, and the mist hangs low over the forest floor, partially obscuring the lower branches. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a pale sky.

INBREAKING

POWER OF HOPE

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

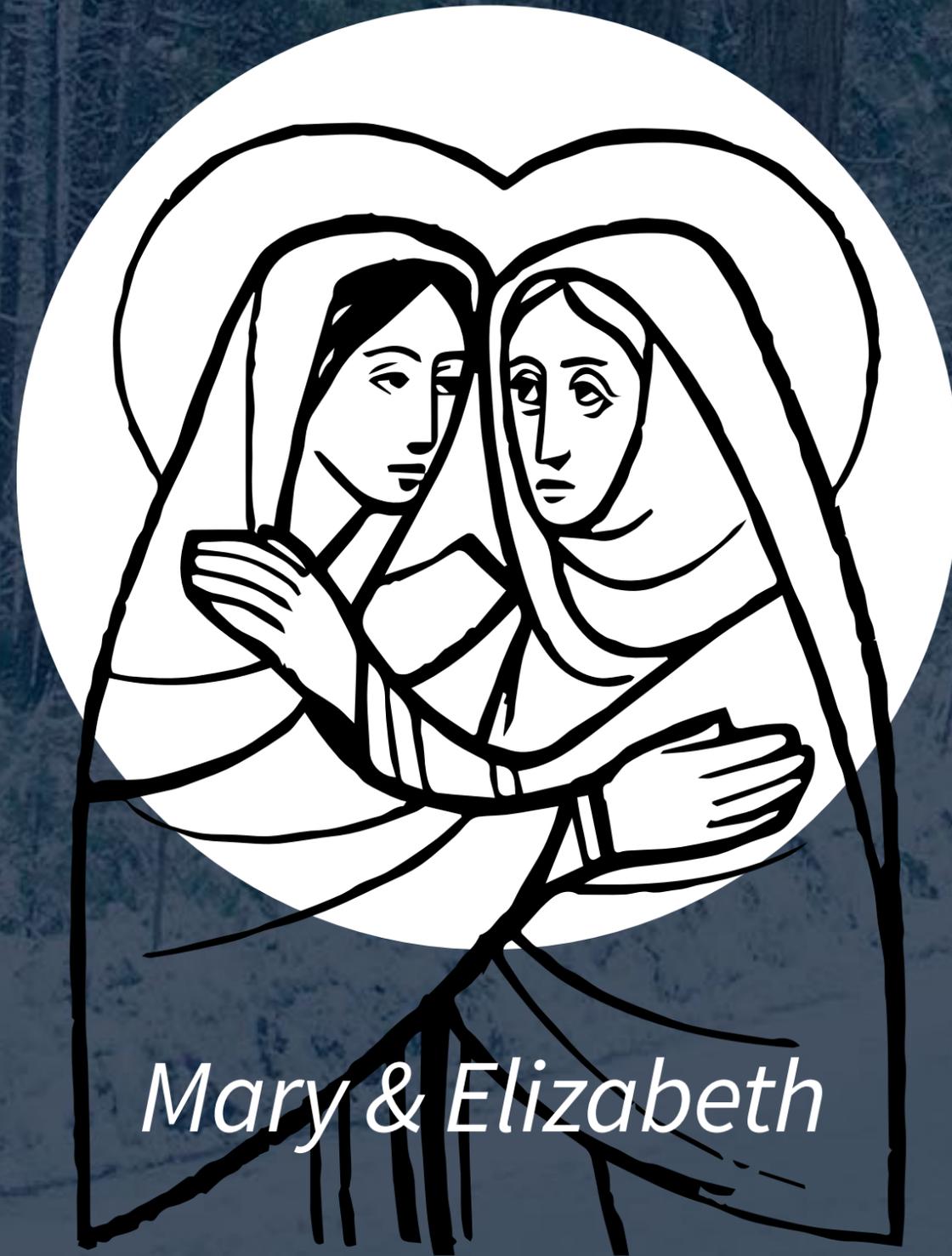
Romans 4:18



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POWER OF HOPE



Mary & Elizabeth

Mary and Elizabeth shared a dream. It was the ancient dream of Israel: the dream that one day all that the prophets had said would come true. One day Israel's God would do what he had said to Israel's earliest ancestors: all nations would be blessed through Abraham's family. But for that to happen, the powers that kept the world in slavery had to be toppled. ...

N.T. Wright



God would have to win a victory over the bullies, the power-brokers, the forces of evil which people like Mary and Elizabeth knew all too well, living as they did in the dark days of Herod the Great, whose casual brutality was backed up with the threat of Rome. Mary and Elizabeth, like so many Jews of their time, searched the scriptures, soaked themselves in the psalms and prophetic writings which spoke of mercy, hope, fulfillment, reversal, revolution, victory over evil, and of God coming to the rescue at last.

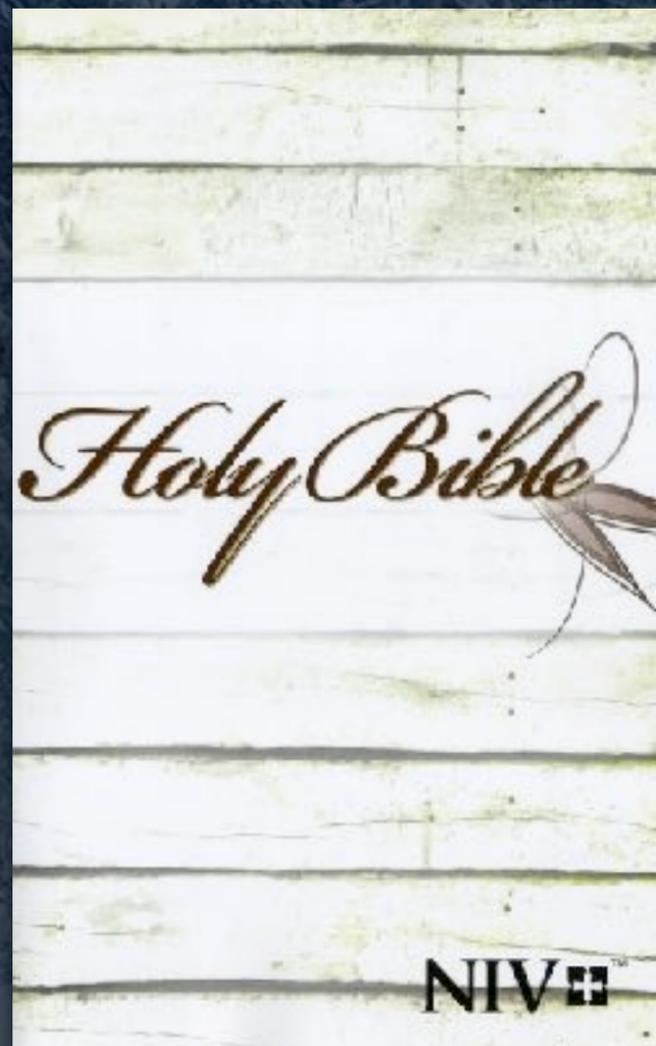
N.T. Wright



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POWER OF HOPE



Luke 1:39-56

Page 715

I. Seeing What God Has Done For Us Feeds Hope

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28The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

42In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

48for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

Luke 1:28, 42, 48



I. Seeing What God Has Done For Us Feeds Hope

A. What the Bible says about us being blessed...

- *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. - **Ephesians 1:3***
- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - **1 John 1:9***
- *The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. - **Romans 8:6***
- *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5*
- *I can do all this through him who gives me strength. - **Philippians 4:13***

I. Seeing What God Has Done For Us Feeds Hope

A. What the Bible says about us being blessed...

B. What other people say about us being blessed...

- *⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ... ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” - Luke 1:42, 45*

I. Seeing What God Has Done For Us Feeds Hope

- A. What the Bible says about us being blessed...
- B. What other people say about us being blessed...
- C. What we say about us being blessed...

- *^{46b}“My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, - Luke 1:46b-48*

II. Community Feeds Hope

INBREAKING

Here's something very, very practical. First of all, Mary does not just go sit alone. Mary doesn't really understand. Mary doesn't really see. Mary doesn't really break into joy until she gets into fellowship with another sister. She comes in, and Elizabeth says a couple of things, and it all clicks. It all comes together. This is extremely important. We find the Lord mainly in community. Even Gabriel kind of hints at this and says, "Look, Mary. I know this is going to be hard. Go see Elizabeth." So often, the word from God we need comes through a brother or sister.

Timothy Keller

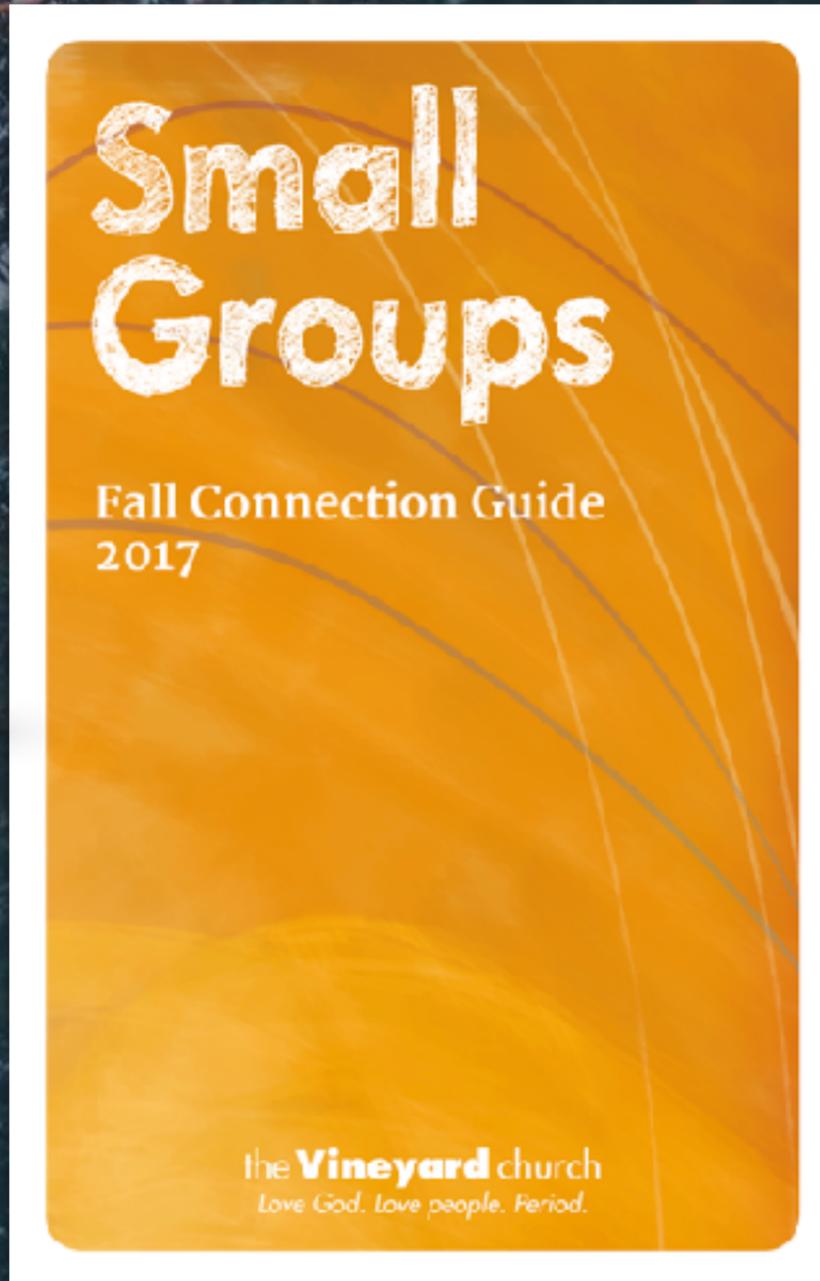


What a beautiful picture this is of a small group fellowship. We come in, and we talk about what God means to us, and the pieces of the puzzle come together. ... [Because] your brothers and sisters, from their vantage points, see aspects of the glory of Christ you do not see. It's only together that you will see him more and more truly. What if Mary said spiritually, "I want to be alone"? She didn't.

Timothy Keller



II. Community Feeds Hope



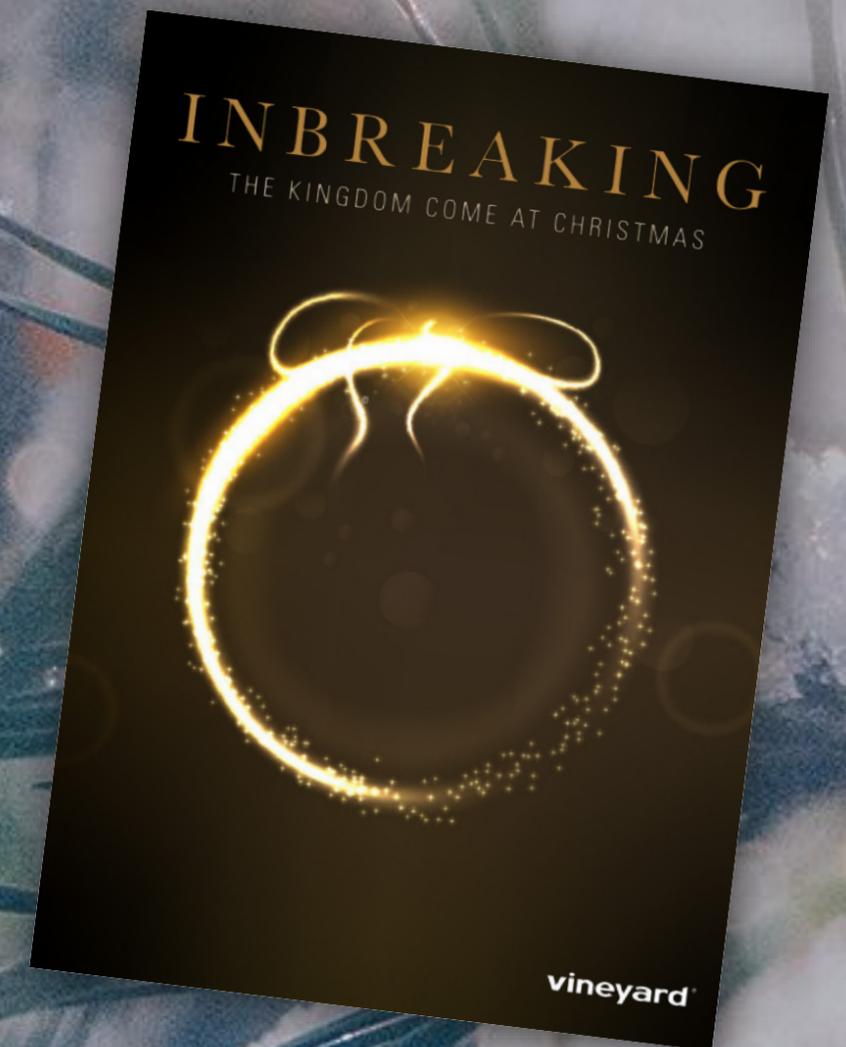
INBREAKING

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:38



III. Submission Feeds Hope



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