1. **Luke 1:39-40**
* According to the scriptures, where is the town located that “Mary” is traveling to?
* **2 Samuel 6:2**
* According to the scriptures, where is the town located that David and the “ark of God” are traveling to?
1. **Luke 1:41-56**
* What happens to the infant in Elizabeth’s womb when Mary comes in her presence and greets her?
* According to Elizabeth, why did the infant respond this way?
* **2 Samuel 6:16, 22**
* Who is found leaping before the “ark of God” in this story?
* Why was this individual “jumping and dancing before the Lord”?
* How might this event relate to **Luke**?
* **2 Samuel 6:18**
* What did David do and say to the people in this verse while he was near the “ark of God”?
* **In Luke 1:42, 45** what did “Elizabeth” do after being “filled with the Holy Spirit” near “Mary”?
* **2 Samuel 6:9**
* What question does David ask here, before the “ark of God”?
* In **Luke 1:43**, how is Elizabeth’s response similar to David’s before the “ark of God”?
* **2 Samuel 6:11**
* How long did the “ark of God” remain “in the house of Obed-edom” in Judah?
* In **Luke 1:56** how long did “Mary” remain in Elizabeth’s home in Judah?
* What do these similarities of events, actions of persons, or places in the **Old** and **New Testaments** say to you about “Mary” and the “ark of God”?
* **Exodus 31:6b, Exodus 25:8-9**
* How well did the “ark of God” need to be made and how was this accomplished?
* What does this say to you about how “Mary” was made?
* **Luke 1:28, Luke 1:42**
* When do we recite these words in unity as Catholics and followers of Jesus Christ?
* Reflect on Mary’s canticle, **verses 46-55** in **Luke** and share what Mary proclaims “all ages” will “call” her?
* Has this prophetic statement come to fulfillment in your opinion, and if so, how?
* **St. Bede** (672 AD – 735 AD) *Homilies on The Gospels Section 1.4*

“As Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant in her womb leapt, and Elizabeth was filed with the Holy Spirit. When Mary **opened her mouth** to greet [her], Elizabeth was immediately **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and John was filled with one and the same Spirit. Both of them were fully informed – [Elizabeth] acknowledged who the person was who was there greeting her and venerated her as the mother of her Lord with a due blessing; John understood that it was the Lord himself who was being carried in the Virgin’s womb, and because his tongue was not yet capable of speaking, he greeted him by a leap that showed his understanding. He told of the office of being his precursor, which as a youth he was going to fulfill freely, and devotedly, and before he was born he told of the coming of the Lord by the only signs he was capable of giving. Now the time had arrived when the utterances of angles would be fulfilled, in which he had stated ‘**he** **[John] would be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb’**.”

* **St. Gregory of Neocaesarea** (213 AD – 270 AD) *Homily on the Annunciation to the Holy Virgin Mary*

“Let us chant the melody that has been taught us by the inspired harp of David, and say, ‘Arise, O Lord, into thy rest; thou, and the **ark of thy sanctuary**.’ For the **Holy Virgin** is in **truth** an **ark**, wrought with gold both within and without, that has received the whole treasury of the sanctuary.”

* **St. Athanasius** (296 AD – 373 AD) *Homily of the Papyrus of Turin*

“O noble Virgin, truly you are greater than any other greatness. For who is your equal in greatness, **O dwelling place of God the Word**? To whom among all creatures shall I compare you, O Virgin? You are greater than them all **O [Ark of the] Covenant**, clothed with **purity** instead of **gold**! **You are the ark** in which is found the **golden vessel containing the true manna**, that is, the **flesh** in which **divinity** resides.”

* **Catechism 2676, 2677**
* Please share something meaningful that stood out for you today with the group.