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**Praise prayers**

**Teacher Guidance**

**Context:** This prayer activity would be most appropriate with upper Key Stage 2 children and is based on the ‘Magnificat’ or ‘Song of Mary’ taken from Luke’s Gospel. It contains the words of praise spoken by Mary after she visits her cousin Elizabeth. You can read the story in the first chapter of Luke’s Gospel.

**You will need:** Versions of the Magnificat (we have used the version from the Message Bible as the language used is probably the most accessible for the children’s understanding), paper, pencils/pens/paints

Read and study the Magnificat:

I’m bursting with God-news;  
    I’m dancing the song of my Savior God.  
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—  
    I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!  
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,  
    the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.  
His mercy flows in wave after wave  
    on those who are in awe before him.  
He bared his arm and showed his strength,  
    scattered the bluffing braggarts.  
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,  
    pulled victims out of the mud.  
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;  
    the callous rich were left out in the cold.  
He embraced his chosen child, Israel;  
    he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.  
It’s exactly what he promised,  
    beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

Ask children to pick out the phrases that describe God. Give each child a sheet of paper and ask them to write out one of the phrases in large, colourful lettering. Paste all the finished phrases on to backing paper under the caption, “We can praise God because….” You can now use this for a prayerful, reflective activity. Ask the children to be quiet and reflect on the content of the poster. You could light a candle/use a battery operated one and then lead a quiet time of silent prayer or invite the children to say aloud, ‘We can praise God because…….’. If they are happy to share, perhaps ask the questions in the reflection below:

**Further reflection:** If you were writing a song or poem of praise, what would you include? Who in your life would you like to praise? You might not feel like singing a song to them but you could tell them how much you appreciate their presence in your life!