

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2019 Advent Series

These questions are for the **December 15, 2019** sermon, "The Leap for Joy." Please read the sermon passage (Luke 1:39-45) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER HOW THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH UNFOLDS, NOTE . . .

1. The fellowship through Jesus Christ (39-41a, 44b)
 - a. Mary makes the 80-100 mile journey (as a young teen) to visit Elizabeth.
 - b. These two miraculous births unite these faithful women.
 - c. They overcome obstacles, compare stories and share great, overwhelming joy.
 - i. Joy is seen in the work of the Holy Spirit (in John (1:15) and Elizabeth (1:41)).
 - ii. The baby (John the Baptist) "leaps for joy," showing his complete personhood.
2. The lordship of Jesus Christ (41b-45)
 - a. Elizabeth is aware of John's complete personhood. She has been granted insight.
 - i. She understands more than simply what her eyes can see (a baby)
 - ii. She understands the implication of God's promise (the Savior and Lord, Jesus).
 - iii. God is often at work beneath the surface. Don't simply trust your eyesight.
 - b. The presence of the Holy Spirit is confirmation of the prophecy and promise.
 - c. In her joy, Elizabeth calls Jesus her "Lord," based on her faith in God's Word/promise.
 - d. Elizabeth praises Mary for her faithful response: "Blessed is she who believed."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The warmth of Mary and Elizabeth's relationship is significantly multiplied by their mutual role and trust in God's Word and plan. Do you have a significant friendship that has been warmed up and built upon your mutual trust and growing faith in the Word of God? Do you talk about God's plan and his Word and his faithfulness? In what way does this produce ongoing joy, excitement and expectation?
2. Based on #1, above: Babies are fully human from conception. Do you have any babies in your life? Do you pray for them as image-bearers? Do you pray for them to be full of the Holy Spirit and used in God's kingdom? In what way can you protect the lives of babies better?
3. Based on #2, above: Elizabeth has great insight that the baby in Mary's womb is her Lord, the promised Messiah from God. She has confidence, and this confidence produces joy. This Christmas, are you full of joy because you are trusting God's promises? Where is that happening? Where is it not happening?
4. Based on #2, above: Elizabeth commends Mary because of her immediate trust in God's Word. Mary's tidy dream of a little family and a simple life in Nazareth has been interrupted by God. Mary will now face rumors, misunderstanding, unbelief and the hardship of her son's harsh treatment and eventual crucifixion while she watches. Yet God's plan is better because it glorifies him more. Do you see your hardship as an opportunity for more glory for God? Are you a willing servant of the Lord? How might you be blessed as you see things this way?