

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of November 27, 2016

Luke 1:39-45

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

New Living Translation (NLT)

³⁹ A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Connection Questions:

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the phrase, “God is expectant”?
2. Have you ever given a gift with your love behind it and had the opportunity to witness the love being received with your intended purpose? If so, share your stories and how you felt.
3. In our text Elizabeth and Mary had both received surprising messages from God. Discuss their stories and the difficulty they may have had in receiving the messages.
4. Discuss why you think both of these women were able to hear God’s message in their experiences and why they were hopeful.
5. How can God’s surprising messages be hopeful in the routines we go through preparing for Christmas?

6. How can we prepare ourselves to hear God speak through all the varied experiences we go through in our lives?

7. How did God's message to Elizabeth and Mary make their lives more complicated? What might this tell us about the messages God might send to us?

8. As surprised as Elizabeth and Mary were about God's message to them, they responded with positive and hopeful hearts. How were they able to do this?

9. How has God spoken to you or your family in unique ways through past Christmases?

10. What do you think our expectant God longs for us to do with his gift of amazing love?