

Joy to the World

Mary: Bringer of Joy - Luke 2: 46 – 55

In our series about 'Joy to the World' we looked at how God uses people to bring joy to others. We used Mary's experience as the starting point for seeing how God can use all of us to bring joy to others. The problem is that we can put up barriers that stop God from using us, or which prevent us from receiving joy from others. The barriers can come from society's expectations as well as from within us.

Mary responded positively to God's call, yet the path she would have to follow wasn't always easy. When God calls us to do something, it can feel daunting, and sometimes it will be an uncomfortable experience.

We need to stay grounded in God if we are going to be effective bringers of joy to the world around.

Questions

1. Who has helped bring joy to your life?
2. Look at the reading –
 - a. Why does Mary say her spirit rejoices in God?
 - b. What does Mary say about the things God has done?
 - c. What do we learn about God's character and the way He works among people?
3. What can prevent you from thinking that God could use you?
4. What can prevent you from being served by others?
5. How do you feel when you think you are doing what God has asked you to do, but it is not going smoothly? What helps you when this happens?
6. To be a bringer of joy, we also need to experience joy. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit – how do you grow in that fruit?