



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on Dec 13, 2020

Sermon: Faith and Joy
Text: Luke 1:46-56

Gathering Guidelines

-Watch Pastor Brian's intro video for this week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dasih6LrIRg>

Take some time to worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eg5O2y1UXw4>

Read

Luke 1:46-56

Discussion Questions

The main thing we want to try and discover this week is this: "Do I believe that God speaks directly to me?"

Question #1:

In Luke 1: 11-17 we read that Gabriel tells Zechariah that his wife would have a baby. His wife was well beyond child-bearing years so this news was a bit shocking.

Read verses 18-20 and then after ask this question: "Why did God make Zechariah unable to speak? What happened?"

Question #2:

In verses 26-37 Gabriel tells Mary that she too is going to have a baby. But she will conceive without ever laying with a man as God would make her pregnant. What was Mary's response to this news? (Read verse 38 to find out).

Question #3:

If you read chapter one of Luke you will see both Elizabeth and Mary being told some pretty crazy news about becoming pregnant. Elizabeth was no longer able to bear children and she would was told by God that she would. Mary was told that she would have a baby even though she was a virgin! And both Elizabeth and Mary believed that these were the true words from God. Read verse 46-49. . .how does Mary feel now that she has accepted God's words to her?

Question #4:

Elizabeth and Mary were filled with *joy* when they received God's message to them as true. Their faith in God's message to them led them to joy.

Zechariah, on the other hand, met God's message to him with scepticism and wanted proof to verify what was being said to him. And this led to him being silenced.

Here is your question:

When it comes to hearing from God, can our scepticism about hearing God's voice hinder us in experiencing joy in the Lord as well?

Talk about the kinds of things that Mary was asked to believe. Would it have been hard?

Talk about Zechariah, was he really that bad of a guy to question something so crazy?

Question #5:

Do you think that God wants to speak directly to you today?

Read Hebrews 13:8 and John 14:26.

If God spoke to Mary, Zechariah, Elizabeth and a host of other people in the Bible, and He is unchanging and wants to teach us things, then does that mean that He wants to speak to us today?

Question #6:

The Bible teaches us who God is, about His nature and what He desires to accomplish. It is where we learn about God and life.

But just like with Mary, and so many others in the Bible, God speaks specifically to His children so that the things in the Bible will come to life in them in specific situations.

Take a moment now. . .read Matthew 4:4. . .and ask God what word He wants to speak to you right now.

Invitation and Mission for this week

This week challenge yourself to do two things: Take regular time to listen to see if God is speaking to you. In your prayer time simply say to Him two things: “I believe that you speak to me, and I am open to receive.”

Keep pressing in. Don't give up. It's hard work but it's worth it.

When you hear His leading, then do what He says.

This kind of faith leads to *joy!*

And we all want that. . .

Pray for each other