

IMMEASUREABLE JOY!
BIG IDEA: Jesus' identity as Savior is a source of immeasurable joy in the lives of believers.
DATE: Sunday, December 13, 2026
SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-55 (CSB)

OPENING QUESTION

How would you define authentic joy? How is it different than happiness? *Can you share about a time when you were joyful, even though you weren't all that happy?*

What parts of the Christmas holiday bring you joy?

THE SETTING

Luke here described Mary as a model believer eagerly responding in obedience to the heavenly message of her pregnancy. She was so overwhelmed with God choosing her that she burst out in praise. This is known as Mary's Song or the Magnificat. Mary praised God for what He was about to do and for the part she was privileged to play in His plan. She was filled with immeasurable joy!

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 1:39-55 (CSB)
[39]In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah [40]where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. [41]When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. [42]Then she exclaimed with a loud cry "Blessed are you among women, and your child will be blessed! [43]How could this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? [44]For you see, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped for joy inside me. [45]Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill what he has spoken to her!"

[46]And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, [47]and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, [48]because he has looked with favor on the humble condition of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, [49]because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and his name is holy. [50]His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him.

[51]He has done a mighty deed with his arm; he has scattered the proud because of the thoughts of their hearts; [52]he has toppled the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly [53]He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

[54]He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy [55]to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he spoke to our ancestors.

BIBLE STUDY

READ: LUKE 1:39-45

Describe the setting of Luke 1:39-56 and what you think this experience meant to both women.

What is the significance of each statement in Elizabeth's greeting to Mary (vv. 42-45)? How did Mary respond to her greeting?

READ: LUKE 1:46-50

What reason did Mary give for her joy in Luke 1:48?

Why did God choose to bless Mary? Why would God choose to bless you and me?

In verses 49-50, Mary rejoiced in God's attributes. What specific attributes of God does Mary draw attention to in these two verses?

How does reflecting on God's attributes affect the way you worship?

READ: LUKE 1:51-53

What works of God does Mary mention in these verses?

What contrasts or role reversals does Mary make in this passage? How do these reflect her feelings about God? About herself?

READ: LUKE 1:54-55

Read Genesis 22:16-18. How was Jesus' birth related to God's promise to Abraham? Why would Mary consider this worthy of praise?

How has God caused you to wait upon Him? What lessons have you learned in God's waiting room?

How can you find joy in the reliability of God—despite your circumstances? How can you rely upon Him in the face of delay, defeat, or even death?

APPLICATION

Can people tell you are a Christian by your joyful attitude? How do you tangibly express this joy to God and to others? Gratitude for our salvation leads to immeasurable joy! Ask God to help your joy overflow in this Christmas season.