



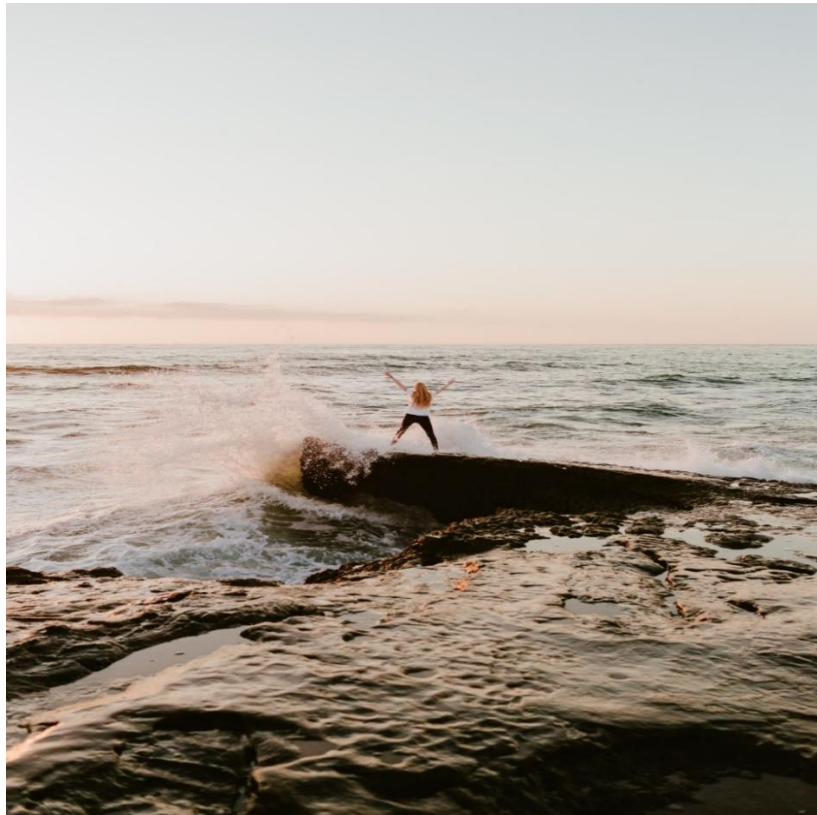
Near and Now

When My Calling Brings Joy – Miriam

By Jasmine DeLara

Warm-up Question

When have you felt like you had won? Give examples



Picture by Vince Fleming on [Unsplash](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What do you see in this image?
2. What do you feel looking at this image?
3. What stories from your own life does this image bring to mind?
4. What stories of the world does this image bring to mind?

And Miriam Sang to Them

Read [Exodus 15:1-21](#)

Bible Story Reflection

To fully understand the beauty and power of this passage you need the context in which it takes place. The Israelites have just escaped from the oppressive fist of Pharaoh, the Egyptians and slavery. God protected them by guiding them safely through the Red Sea on dry ground and drowning Pharaoh and all his soldiers. As they looked out to the sea and saw their enemy defeated, they broke out in song and dance, worshiping their warrior God. They were filled with great joy that God had delivered them from their enemies.

Care needs to be taken when reading and engaging in this passage on a couple fronts. Take care to not obsess or admire the mighty power described in this passage as we should fear and humbly respect God's power and take care to understand that He will not simply use that power to the will of our human heart's desires.

With this in mind, the impressions from this passage are several fold. We are invited to stand in awe and fear of God's power. The enemy is described as willing to do anything, give anything to make us fall, be afraid or lose hope in God and He destroys our enemies with a single breath. There is no enemy or trial that is a match for God's great power and we, who He loves, can take comfort in having a God whose love protects us in this way. Second, we are invited to reflect on God's calling to love and protect us and how He fiercely rises to this call. Moses and Miriam reflect on this within their song repeatedly praising God's faithfulness to the Israelites over the Egyptians. Finally, we are called to great happiness in the face of victory over our enemies. This passage is a victory song and gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the significance of victory, God's power and our joy from that victory within our own stories.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you resonate with this passage?
2. In what ways do you have dissonance with this passage? What challenges you about this passage?
3. Talk about a time when you have seen God's power in your own story?
4. How did that show of power make you feel? Joyful? Afraid?
5. Why did the Israelites sing this song? What does this show about their attitudes at the time?
6. Reread verse 17 and reflect on the gift God has given you. Share if you feel comfortable.
7. Do you often praise God? How can you praise God? How can we improve in our praise to God? What can we learn from this song about how to praise God?
8. Discuss your own life and if you are actively praising God. What is the difference between praising God and being thankful to God?

Activity Suggestions

Create a worship space. Sing songs similar to the one Miriam and the Israelites sang, filled with joy and praise.

Create a praise diagram. On one side write all the ways you are currently praising God in your life. On the other side, write ways that you could improve on actively praising God. When you have finished, pray to God that you make praising God a more active part of your life. Take this activity a step further by asking for an accountability partner.

Keep a gratitude log similar to the one of the following page.

Prayer Concerns

Those facing persecution from an enemy, who are losing hope, who are struggling to see God at this time.

Closing Prayer

Place your song in my heart, O God, and fill me with the joy of your calling. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.



Gratitude Log

<p>Celebrate Gratitude <i>List 5 things you are grateful for</i></p>	<p>People I'm grateful for <i>List three people that make your life happier</i></p>
<p>Hard lessons I've learned <i>List three challenges and what you are learning from them</i></p>	<p>Greatest memories <i>Recall and write a few of your favorite memories</i></p>