



ChaseteamMalvern

All Saints – St Andrew's – St Mary's
Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

Advent: The Light has Come

Life Group Material

Joy in the Waiting

w/b 14th December

(Feel free to choose questions as appropriate for your group)

Starter:

1. *Describe a time when you felt joyful – what was that like? Do you think joy is a luxury or a necessity in life? Why?*

Read Luke 1:39-56

This passage comes immediately after Mary is visited by the angel and accepts God's call, and just before Elizabeth and Zechariah's son, John the Baptist, is born.

1. *What strikes you/ jumps out at you from these verses today?*
2. *V39-45. Mary arrives at Elizabeth and Zechariah's house. It was a very joyful meeting – why (there's probably more than one reason!)?*
3. *V46-56. Mary's song. This is a song of joy. What are the reasons for her joy, and why, given her circumstances, is her rejoicing surprising?*
4. *In what way is Mary's song a song of joy for many other people too, especially those for whom life is a struggle? Who are those people in our society/ communities?*
5. *What might Mary's song of joy look like as a practical reality in our world/ town today?*

6. *In the whole of this passage and through the discussion, what gives you joy here today?*
7. *The joy of the Lord in our own lives. What place does joy have in your faith walk? Is the joy of the Lord something we can practice and cultivate do you think? (Philippians 4:4) What might this look like?*
8. *Have you ever been surprised by joy when your circumstances were anything but joyful? How do you make sense of that spiritually?*

As a group, you might like to light a candle, perhaps listen to a song and spend a few minutes waiting on God, praying for joy in the world, and praying for the joy of the Lord in your own lives.
