

Miriam, a Woman of Joy

Exodus 15:20

Main idea: To explore the character of Miriam in the Bible, emphasizing her joy and how it is connected to her faith and leadership among the Israelites.

Topic: Miriam, a Woman of Joy

Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon on Miriam, a woman of joy:

1. Scripture Passages:

- Psalm 16:11 - "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." This verse emphasizes the connection between joy and being in the presence of God.
- Nehemiah 8:10 - "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." This verse highlights how joy in the Lord can provide strength and resilience.

2. Language Suggestions:

- In Exodus 15:20, the Hebrew word for "timbrel" used to describe the instrument Miriam played is "tōph." You can explain the significance of this instrument and its association with joyous celebrations in other parts of the Bible, such as Psalm 81:2 and Psalm 149:3.
- The Hebrew word for "sing" in Exodus 15:21 is "shīr," which can also mean to "rejoice" or "make music." You can explore the multifaceted nature of joy expressed through singing and music in worship.

3. Additional Points:

- Explore the context of Miriam's song of joy in Exodus 15, highlighting the Israelites' deliverance from slavery and their gratitude towards God.
- Discuss how Miriam's role as a prophetess and leader among women can inspire joy and empowerment in others.
- Connect Miriam's joy to the broader theme of joy in the Bible, such as the joy of salvation, the joy of fellowship with God, and the joy that comes from living a life aligned with God's purposes.

Remember to weave these additional ideas into your existing sermon structure and reinforce your main point of Miriam being a woman of joy.