

be born in us today | *praying a Christmas prayer*

***Leaping in the Womb***

Luke 1:39-45

December 18, 2022

***Introduction:*** How does Christmas move from history into your life? That's what God wants for you and each of us. That's why it happened. Philips Brooks offers us a prayer in the classic hymn he wrote during a crisis in his own life: "O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today." This Advent we pray that prayer together and discover what the Bible tells us about how we let God answer it.

***Prayer:*** Father, grant us the joyful expectancy of your coming that we see portrayed in the passage we are studying together. Amen

***Read:*** Luke 1:39-45

***Review:*** How did you rejoice in Advent (the coming) this week? Did you identify two 'family rules' that govern your life? How did these rules line up with what you know of God's plans for you?

***Discussion:***

1. Both Mary and Elizabeth faced struggles related to pregnancy. What do you remember about their situations? Why would they have difficulties?  
(For Elizabeth see Luke 1:5-24. For Mary see Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25)
2. Why do you think Mary chose to visit Elizabeth at this time? See Luke 1:36-37.
3. What joy did Mary and Elizabeth experience when they met? See also Luke 1:46-56. What was that joy based on? What did they know about God and His plans for the child each of them would bear?
4. What are your places of struggle? Where do you find joy?

***Application:*** This week look to see where God is breaking into your struggles with his joy.

***Prayer:*** Father, during this Advent season as we watch and wait grant us your joy and peace. Amen.