

5. Read Luke 1:39-56. God the Holy Spirit fills John the Baptist before birth and he fills Elizabeth when Mary visits her. The Holy Spirit also fills all believers. Read the following passages and explain how what the Holy Spirit is doing in you expresses your worth.

John 16: ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Acts 4: ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

1 Corinthians 12: ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ...⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Romans 15: ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

6. God proclaims our worth by speaking to us. What are some of the ways you have found helpful to hear from God in his Word, rather than simply reading the Bible for more information? (Sharing this with your group will help others learn more ways to commune with God through his Word.)

7. You are called blessed. What other ways does God refer to you that help you feel your worth? (Spend a few moments before the group meeting prayerfully thanking God for his expressions of love.)

O Holy Night - Part 2

"The Soul Felt Its Worth"

Luke 1:39-56

In the story of God, from the very beginning, we find our _____.

Our value and worth is found in God. It's _____ in a deepening and loving relationship with God.

3 Ways God Communicates Our Worth

1. God _____.

Luke 1:15,41

We have the very presence of God _____ us.

2. God _____.

Luke 1:41-43

Mary has heard God speak through his Word and now his Word is _____ her song.

It's like Mary tries to put the _____ story of God into one song.

Why does God speak to us? Why _____?

God wants us to know him and know ourselves and find our way to him and find our way _____ him through life.

In bothering to talk to us he's proclaiming what we are worth _____.

God wants to _____ his story in our hearts.

3. God _____.

Luke 1:46-48

If you want to get a sense of the joy that's expressed in this passage, think about a time you celebrated _____.

Humility is a prerequisite of receiving God's _____.

Luke 18: 14 "I tell you that this [humble tax collector], rather than the [proud Pharisee], went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Are people basically _____ or humble?

Our true worth is found and _____ in God alone.

For further reflection:

- God humbles. (Luke 1:51)

- God judges. (Luke 1:52-55)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What are some of the flaws in basing our worth on performance (living up to standards) or on simply "being true to ourselves" or searching for our worth deep within ourselves?
3. List your top 10 reasons why Christ's appearing on earth that first Christmas communicates our worth to God. Put a star next to the three that help you most feel your worth.