

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 106. A song of praise and joy



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Isaiah 12:2-6

'Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.' With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: 'Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done; and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Psalm 16:11; John 15:9-11; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 7:4

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

I write this on the day after the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, beloved by so many and respected around the world.

Though living nearly 3,000 years apart, Queen Elizabeth and the prophet Isaiah shared a deep faith in God; this passage, written by Isaiah or one of his followers, could have been written by Queen Elizabeth. They both realised that whatever life threw at them or whatever mistakes they or their countries made, God was their salvation. They could trust Him and not be afraid. They both drew their strength from God and proclaimed their faith publicly. And they both knew His joy.

Perhaps you think it is hard to be joyful when you are feeling sad or even angry - but we are called to be joyful. Joy is not the same as happiness. Joy can remain deep inside us when happiness escapes us. If we know we are loved by God, we know that He will be with us in our dark times as well as in our happy times. God will never leave us. As the well-known poem 'Footsteps' tells us, when we cannot see God's footsteps alongside ours, it is then that He is carrying us.

Knowing God's joy encourages us to thank Him and praise Him - even in the bad times. If we start and end each day by praising God and thanking Him, our relationship with Him will grow and we will receive His peace and His comfort.

### Reflections:

- Read this passage again. Focus for a moment on the first two sentences.
- When you realise God's great mercy and love, do you remember to praise and thank Him? Concentrate for a few minutes on the rest of the passage and offer your own thanks and praise to God.
- Do you understand that there is a difference between joy and happiness? Think of examples of each and write them down; for example, perhaps you are joyful that you have a loving family but unhappy because one of them is ill.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

