

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

Her faith, our journey

Faithfulness over a lifetime – Jane Codrington – 16.8.2026

Scripture

Exodus 2:1-8; 15:19-21; Numbers 12:1-15; 20:1

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

The story of Miriam teaches us about courage, leadership, and the human capacity to make mistakes and recover. Pharaoh had a plan to destroy the Hebrews who had thrived in Egypt, even whilst they were slaves. But God had a plan to save His people and lead them to the Promised Land, and one of the people God used was Moses' older sister, Miriam. When Pharaoh's daughter discovered Moses in his basket, she realised that he was a Hebrew baby, but that did not stop her from wanting to take him into her own home and treat him as her son.

At this time, Miriam is not named, but she is described as the baby's sister. The young girl stepped forward, showing amazing courage for one so young, and offered to find a Hebrew woman to nurse and raise the little boy. The princess readily agreed. So, Miriam was instrumental in enabling Moses to grow up learning all that any Hebrew child would learn about his heritage. (Exodus 2:1-8).

The next time we encounter Miriam, Moses worshipped God in song for saving the people by dividing the waters of the Red Sea so they could all cross into safety. As his song ended, Miriam stepped forward and led the women in their own song of worship. (Numbers 12:1-15). Here she is described as a prophetess and named as Aaron's sister, so it goes without saying that she is also Moses' sister. God acknowledged her leadership role to the prophet Micah (Micah 6:4)

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But not every account of Miriam's life is favourable. She and Aaron talked about Moses and the fact that he had married an Ethiopian wife. (Numbers 12:1-15) However, this did not seem to be the reason for their disapproval. Miriam was jealous of her younger brother, and she asked Aaron whether God had only spoken to the people through Moses. She answered the question herself, declaring He had spoken through both Aaron and Miriam as well (Exodus 4:30; Exodus 12:1; Exodus 15:20-21; Numbers 11:24-25), yet these words did not bring them any prestige.

(God had appointed Moses the leader of the people at that time and used him as His spokesman. God punished all three of the siblings, calling them to the tent of meeting where He appeared to them in a pillar of cloud. He spoke to Miriam and Aaron, reprimanding them for their questioning Moses' God-given role. As a result, when the cloud lifted, Miriam was white with leprosy. Aaron was horrified and begged Moses to speak to God, asking Him not to punish them for their sin. Moses cried out to the Lord, asking Him to heal his sister. God told him that Miriam should stay outside the camp for 7 days, when she could return. The people stayed in that place until the 7 days had passed, and she was able to return to the camp.

Finally, we learn of Miriam's death (Numbers 20:1-2) at Kadesh in the desert of Zin. Her death was an example of God fulfilling His promise that no member of the generation who had refused to enter Canaan would ever reach the Promised Land (Numbers 14:29-34)

Icebreaker:

Would you call yourself a leader or a supporter?
What makes you define yourself in that category?
Are you comfortable with your role?
What would you like to change?

Application

- *Miriam's first appearance is when she is a little girl:* When have you seen amazing faith in a child? What happened? How did you feel about a young one having faith in God?

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- *Miriam led the women in worship:* Have you ever been called by God to do something that you believed only you could do? Did it take courage? What happened? How do you feel about this now? Are you still fulfilling that role now? What does/did it mean to you?
- *Miriam was not perfect:* Are there any instances when you feel you may have let God down? How do you deal with that issue? Have you been able to put it right or is it ongoing? What do you hear God saying to you about it now?
- *The Hebrews were used to Miriam's presence, and she left a hole when she died:* Has there ever been anyone in your life who was a supporter, an encourager, an investor, and a mentor? Are they still supporting and encouraging you? Is there anyone who used to fulfil that role, but who is no longer alive? How have you coped with your life since they passed away?
- What can you take from Miriam's example to use in your everyday life in the 21st century?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

Pray for one another regarding the issues raised during your discussion time and any other needs of the group.

Service

Take one aspect of Miriam's faith and life and put it into practice this week. How did that feel?

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