

RUNNING TO HOPE: A MOTHER'S SONG IN UGANDA

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LUKE 1:39-55 | THE MAGNIFICAT



ADVENT WEEK 4 | SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021



LEARN HOW YOUR LOVE SINGS A SONG OF HOPE IN UGANDA

Lutheran World Relief has been working with local partners in Uganda since 1985 to address the root causes of poverty and improve livelihoods. LWR's approach focuses on small-scale farmers, helping them to improve their crop productivity for increased income and food security.

Lutheran World Relief works with local farmer organizations to provide technical advisory services so that farmers increase their productivity and their income. Farmers learn how to improve crop quality through proper post-harvest handling and processing techniques, as well as proper storage and collective marketing. Your love also helps farmers produce clean, labeled and export-grade cash crops targeted at

regional and international markets, including Fair Trade and other internationally recognized certifications for coffee, to expand their customer base and income.

WATCH



<https://youtu.be/22evNbk4tjU>



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DISCUSS

1. What did you notice when you saw the images of the Ugandan landscape? What kind of tools does Suzan use for farming?
2. Suzan says, "I would survive, but life wasn't good." Can you relate to this statement?
3. Thanks to your love, Suzan now has "friends who love me overseas." Do you have relationships with people you've never met in person? How do you experience the relationship?



BIBLE STUDY

In today's Bible reading from Luke 1:39-55, we read about lots of movement and action. We hear the following words: *set out, haste, leaped, magnifies, filled*. Mary, Elizabeth and even the baby, still in the womb, celebrate with movement, joy and song in response to God's actions. The Good News is literally within Mary, and she has no choice but to share it with others. With God's Spirit, Mary bears witness to God's love. Read together Mary's song in **Luke 1:46-55**.

Mary's song lifts up the lowly and the hungry. Her song is about the unexpected nature of God. Understanding God's work in the world means responding to the needs in our communities, both at home and abroad.

1. Mary set out with haste to see her relatives. What things do you do with haste? Why? Do you feel a sense of urgency in sharing stories of hope and joy with others?
2. Elizabeth bears witness to the Good News within Mary. Think of a time when you witnessed something extraordinary. Were you anxious to tell others about the experience?
3. Mary sings a song in response to God's goodness. What songs do you sing or listen to that bring you joy and hope?



PRAY

God of Movement and of Stillness, be with us. Your presence abides in us. Help us to see the urgency and joy in sharing this Good News with all we meet. Thank you for singing



Jake Lyell for LWR

Suzan Nzabake with two of her children on their farm in Uganda.

a song of hope in our lives. We want to sing that same song; keep our spirits rejoicing and proclaiming the holiness of God's name. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who sings a love song for each of us. Amen.



SHARE YOUR LOVE

As we eagerly wait for Christ's coming, so many of our neighbors around the world are also waiting ... For food. For clean water. For medical care. For hope.

When you help neighbors like Suzan through Lutheran World Relief, you spread hope throughout the world. Who will you reach next?

Visit lwr.org/hope to make your gift and be a light in the darkness for someone in need.



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