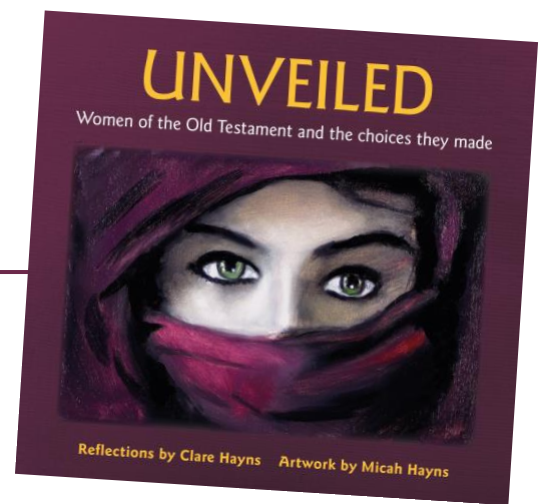


Unveiled

Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made



Discussion and reflection questions

Miriam: the joyful prophet

Recommended reading

- Exodus 2:1–5 Moses' sister watching over Moses as a baby
- Exodus 15:19–22 Miriam leading the women in worship
- Micah 6:3–4 Miriam remembered as one of the leaders of the Israelites

Questions

1. The first thing the Israelites did when they reached freedom was to sing and dance in worship. What do you do when you want to celebrate?
2. John Wesley exhorted his congregations to:

Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep. Do not bawl so as to be heard above the rest of the congregation but strive to unite your voices together.

JOHN WESLEY, 'DIRECTIONS FOR SINGING', SELECT HYMNS: WITH TUNES ANNEX (1761)

What role does communal singing play in your life, church or worship community?



3. Miriam was one of the five female prophets in the Old Testament. What was the role of a prophet in the Old Testament?
4. Miriam and all the women were thankful to God even though they still had years of uncertainty ahead of them. What might we be thankful for right now?
5. Micah's image of Miriam is of a group of women holding hands and dancing. Does this resonate with you? What does it remind you of?

Prayer

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(‘Prayer for church musicians and artists’, *The Book of Common Prayer*)