



Story Series – Part 5: Miriam

Pastor Brian Coles

May 31, 2026

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Fill This Place** (*Red Rocks Worship*)
- **Same God** (*Elevation Worship*)
- **He Has Done Great Things** (*Bethel Music*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. Exodus 2:1-10, 15:20-21
2. Numbers 12:1-15

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to what He wants to teach through Miriam's story.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share a time when you had to let go of something or someone important to you. What was that experience like?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Surrendering Control to God

- "We must take what we want out of our hands and place them into God's hands, so they can become what God wants."

2. Recognizing Our Value in the Body of Christ

- "God gives people as amazing gifts to the body of Christ. You are a gift to the body of Christ."

3. Examining Our Motives

- "We must continually do the work of uncovering the motives that drive our behavior."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Part 1: Miriam's Faith and Letting Go (Exodus 2:1-10)

1. What strikes you most about Miriam's role in protecting baby Moses? Consider her age, the danger involved, and her quick thinking.
2. Pastor Brian said, "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not break." How does this apply to Miriam's story? Where in your life do you need more flexibility right now?
3. Discuss the concept of "letting go and letting God." What are you currently holding onto that God might be asking you to release into His hands?
4. The sermon listed several biblical figures who surrendered something significant (Abraham, Hannah, Ruth, etc.). Which of these examples resonates most with you and why?
5. How does the reversal in Miriam's story (Moses being returned to his mother) encourage you about what God can do with what we surrender?

Part 2: Miriam as a Gift to the Community (Exodus 15:20-21)

6. Miriam was identified as a prophet, leader, and worshiper. What spiritual gifts has God given you? How are you currently using them to serve the body of Christ?
7. Why is it important to recognize that we are gifts to the church community? How does this perspective change the way we show up and serve?
8. Miriam led the women in worship after the Red Sea crossing. What role does worship play in your spiritual life, especially after experiencing God's deliverance?

Part 3: Miriam's Failure and the Danger of Complaining (Numbers 12:1-15)

9. What was the real issue behind Miriam and Aaron's complaint about Moses? (Hint: verse 2 reveals it was about power and position)
10. Pastor Brian said, "Gossip is what we say to others because we lack the courage to say it to the person we should be talking to." Have you ever found yourself gossiping instead of having a direct conversation? What made it difficult to approach the person directly?
11. Discuss the "architecture of complaining" mentioned in the sermon:
 - Discomfort leads to want/need
 - Escalation (1-10 scale)
 - Failure to understand the dangers
 - Refusal to accept temporary discomfort
 - Refusal to use legitimate resolution

Which step in this progression do you find most challenging?

12. Why do you think God responded so strongly to Miriam's complaint? What does this teach us about speaking against God's anointed leaders?
13. Despite her punishment, Moses immediately interceded for Miriam's healing. What does this teach us about grace, forgiveness, and restoration?
14. Miriam's failure doesn't define her entire story. How does this truth encourage you regarding your own failures?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose ONE of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Practice Surrender

- Identify something you're holding tightly (a relationship, a plan, a dream, a worry). Write it down, pray over it, and consciously place it into God's hands. Journal about the experience.

Option 2: Affirm Others as Gifts

- Reach out to 3 people in your church community this week and specifically tell them how they are a gift to the body of Christ. Be specific about their spiritual gifts or contributions.

Option 3: Address Instead of Complain

- If there's someone you've been complaining about, commit to having a direct, honest, and loving conversation with them this week. Prepare your heart first through prayer.

Option 4: Examine Your Motives

- Set aside 30 minutes this week for honest self-examination. Ask God to reveal any hidden motives behind your actions, especially in areas of ministry, relationships, or work. Write down what He reveals and confess anything that isn't aligned with His heart.

Reflection & Prayer Requests

Take 5-10 minutes for individual reflection:

1. What is one thing God is asking you to surrender right now?
2. What spiritual gift do you possess that you need to steward better?
3. Is there someone you've been complaining about instead of talking to directly?
4. What motive is driving a current behavior or attitude in your life that needs examination?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, focusing on:

- Courage to surrender what we're holding onto
- Recognition and activation of our spiritual gifts
- Honesty in our relationships and conversations
- Pure motives that honor God
- Healing and restoration where we've failed