



Week 1 WORSHIP FULLY

#### BIG IDEA

This Christmas, let us conspire to Worship Fully and not miss the God who is with us.

#### SCRIPTURE

**(Mary's Song)** *Mary said, "My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. From now on all people will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me. His name is holy. He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him, from parent to child down through the years. He has done mighty things with his powerful arm. He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones. But he has lifted up people who are not considered important. He has filled with good things those who are hungry. But he has sent away empty those who are rich. He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him. He has always remembered to be kind to Abraham and his children down through the years. He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago."*

#### **Luke 1:46-55**

**(Shepherds)** *There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!" The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told. **Luke 2:8-20***

#### ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite Christmas memory?

#### PRAYER

"Creator of all, as we begin this holy Christmas season, filled with the hope of the coming of the

Messiah, quiet our hearts and minds that we may worship you fully, love you more dearly, and see you more clearly. Amen.”

#### BIBLE DISCUSSION:

Read Luke 1:46-55 What struck you about Mary’s song? Why?

Read Luke 2:8-20– What struck you about the shepherds’ story? Why?

#### LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever known someone who even in the midst of hard situations still chose to worship?
- What are the busy, busy things that keep you from worshipping fully?
- What are the pressures you feel to embrace the consumerist, individualistic world rather than our true Kingdom of God?

#### NEXT STEPS CHALLENGES:

- What steps do you need to take this Advent to make sure you are worshipping FULLY and not worshipping LASTLY?
- We’re challenging each other to be more generous with our financial resources through the Year End Giving Initiative this year. In what other ways can we be more generous this Advent?
- Brainstorm ways you (and your small group) can be generous with your time this month.



#### LEADERS GUIDE Week 1 Worship Fully

#### BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read Luke 1:46-55 and Luke 2:8-20– What struck you about Mary’s song? What struck you about the shepherds’ story?

See if you can get two volunteers to read each of the two stories so that four group members will have read. Sometimes it helps if you tell them what the question will be ahead of time so that those who like to process can have time to think as the stories are read. If you want, read each story separately and discuss.

#### NEXT STEPS CHALLENGE

This would be a good time to plan a holiday volunteering project - maybe with a community partner or another ministry in your community that could use helping hands or donations? Or in lieu of giving gifts to each other, maybe raise money for a cause or sponsor a needy family’s Christmas? We’re sure you’ll think of something great!