

WITH JOY AND WITH SONGS

Praising Jesus // Luke:26-38; 2:9-15a

When I praise Jesus as I should I'll worship him with everything I say (and not just what I sing) (Lk1:28-35; Lk2:10-14). I'll serve him in whatever way he asks (and not just how I think I should) (Lk1:26-27; Lk2:9a, 13a). I'll put all the attention on him (and not at all on me) (Lk1:37; Lk2:13-14).

- How have the changes to the holiday period affected the frequency of your praise for Jesus?
- Besides singing, what would you say is an important form of personal worship for you? Why do you connect with that form of worship?
- What happens when you can't worship Jesus through your preferred form? Which other forms of worship could you explore more?
- Look at Luke 2:38. Is Mary offering words of worship or obedience or both? What primary form will her worship take over the next several months of her life?
- If God asked you to put everything on the line and worship him, what would that look like? (A move? A job change? A marriage? A new way of life? Staying where you are? It was an untimely pregnancy for Mary and Joseph!)
- Angels appear at several points in this narrative to deliver important messages about the Messiah. What message do you have for people that helps them prepare for Jesus? Do you think your message is meant to be a subtle announcement or a bold one? Why?
- What do you do around Christmas that puts attention on Jesus in a clear way? How have people tended to respond to you when you've given them compelling reasons to praise Jesus?