

SERMON NOTES

Questions for Personal Application and Small Group Discussion

Date: December 2, 2018

Series: Advent Conspiracy

Title: Worship Fully

Text: Selected Scriptures

Big Idea: We all have obstacles to worship at Christmas, but we can worship God fully if we keep a willing, obedient, seeking, and sacrificial heart.

DISCUSS THE ISSUE

What was your best Christmas ever? What made it so special?

If you could pick one word to describe what you are looking forward to about this Christmas, what would it be?

E.B. White, the beloved author of *Charlotte's Web* once said, "*To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult every year.*" What kinds of wrappings (plans, desires, traditions, etc.) both help and hinder you from worshipping fully at Christmas?

EXPLORE THE TRUTH

Choose one of the four stories mentioned in the sermon and explore it more deeply (Luke 1:26-55; 2:8-20; Matthew 1:18-25; 2:18-25).

What reasons did those in the story have to worship God to begin with, even before the news of Christ's birth reach their ears of Christ?

Who or what may have competed for worship in their life as they heard the news about Christ's birth?

How did the person(s) in the story overcome obstacles to worship God and Christ fully?

UNWRAP THE MEANING

In what ways do you relate to the character(s) in the story you chose above, or to any of the characters mentioned in the sermon? Though your circumstances today are likely very different than theirs, what obstacles to worshipping fully do you need to overcome?

How are you going to purposely cultivate a heart of worship as the celebration of Advent progresses? What do you need to eliminate from or add to your life?