

## Advent: Adore - Zechariah

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Luke 1:57-80

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### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **Our focus in this season of Advent is to Adore**

To adore is a posture of the heart, a designated act of worship to God alone.

\*What is your experience with Advent? Do you have any practices or traditions you can share?

\*How would you define worship? In what ways do you most often worship?

#### **Zechariah experiences silence while he waits**

Read and discuss Luke 1:12-20 (NIV)

*<sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. <sup>14</sup> He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup> He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

*<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."*

*<sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."*

\*Do you identify with Zechariah in this passage in the way he reacts to the angel? How have you seen God welcome your honest questions?

\*How has God worked in your life through a time of waiting or seeming silence? What was your experience like or what did you learn?

#### **Once he can speak, Zechariah immediately chooses worship**

Read and discuss Luke 1:68-79 (NIV)

*<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:*

*<sup>68</sup> "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.*

*<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David*

*<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),*

*<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—*

*<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors*

*and to remember his holy covenant,*

*<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:*

*<sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear*

*<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

*76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
79 to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”*

\*What do you see in this passage about the way Zechariah chooses worship?

\*What did his time in silence lead him to?

**We worship out of a connection to who God is and what He has done**

‘O, come let us adore Him’ – We are time and time again, coming to adore Him.

\*Where is your heart overflowing with adoration of who God is and what He has done in your life?

What is holding you back from worship right now?

\*How could you choose to be present in a posture of worship this Advent season? What would this look like practically?

\*What do you sense the Spirit wants to show you about worship?