



# AN AWE-FILLED CHRISTMAS: Wonder, Worship, and Waking Up

#TMHAweFilledChristmas 

## Week 4: *The Ways of Praise*

### APPETIZER – Finding Your Purpose Through Praise

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,<sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

~ The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 1:11-12)

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
<sup>4</sup> Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.  
~ King David (Psalm 19:1-4)

### MAIN COURSE – Glory in the Gospel

Luke 2:8-20

PRAISE = The communication of exultation; paying God a compliment; putting God in His place.

We praise through...

1. SPEECH/SHOUTS. (Ezra 3:10-11; Psalm 71:23, 71:22, 95:1-2, 145:21; Luke 2:13)
2. MUSIC/SINGING. (Ezra 3:10-11; Psalm 33:1-3, 47:6-7, 63:5, 71:22-23, 95:1-2, 96:1; 150)
3. POSTURE (Bowling - 1 Chronicles 29:20; Psalm 95:6; Raising Hands - Nehemiah 8:5-6; Psalm 63:3-4, 134:2, 141:2; Clapping Hands - Psalm 47:1)
4. DANCING (Psalm 149:3, 150:4; 2 Samuel 6:14; Luke 15:25)

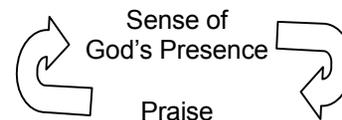
### TAKE OUT – O Come Let Us Adore Him

1. Invite God into your moments of awe.
2. Express praise in your inmost being. Psalm 103:1
3. Find a way to communicate this to God out loud (physically). Psalm 34:1-3; Hebrews 13:15
4. Repeat.

You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon [or dwell within] the praises of Israel.

~ King David (Psalm 22:3)

*Yashab* = to sit, stay, dwell, remain, inhabit



Luke 2...

- Verses 9 and 26... "The Lord" = God.
- Verse 11... "The Lord" = Jesus

The Lord's Messiah (verse 26) = Messiah the Lord (verse 11)



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## Home Church Questions...

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. What's your favourite Christmas movie or story? Why?
2. What are you doing New Year's Eve?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read **Luke 2:8-21**.
  - a. What verse or idea from the text (or Sunday's message) stands out to you? Why?
  - b. Joy is central to the Gospel. The angel literally says "I evangelize you with joy for everyone." (*Euangelizomai* is the Greek word used here = the verb form of "gospel".) The message of Jesus is a message of joy. To be an "Evangelical" is to be a Christian who is focused on this Gospel message of joy. How well have you represented this message accurately over the past week?
  - c. Notice verse 13, where the angels praise God by what they say. What do you think it means to give "glory" (the heavy thought, the fame, the good reputation) to God?
  - d. The shepherds, like the magi, act together (see verses 15-16). What's the value of coming to Jesus alongside others?
  - e. Why do you think the shepherds went to find Jesus? The angels didn't tell them they should. What would you do? Why?
  - f. Even though they had "seen" Jesus for themselves, the good news the shepherds spread about Jesus revolved around what they had been "told" by the angels (verse 17). Why is that?
  - g. Do you tend to respond to amazing events more like the shepherds or Mary?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

4. On a scale of 1-10, how much do you "praise" God each day? What could you do this week to become more of an "awake" person through praise?
5. Take time to pray brief prayers of praise. Don't ask God for anything. Simply think of things that are true about God, and speak them out to him, paying him a compliment. Allow your mind to wake up to his presence, to his personal, actual reality with you.

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## Quotes...

Wonder is the basis of worship.  
~ Thomas Carlyle

There is a worldwide stirring among people today. They are tired of the experience of life and they are looking for a sense that God is with us.  
~ Tommy Coomes

As soon as we acknowledge God to be the supreme architect, who has erected the beautiful fabric of the universe, our minds must necessarily be ravished with wonder at His infinite goodness, wisdom and power.  
~ John Calvin

Everyone eventually surrenders to something or someone. You were designed to worship God – and if you fail to worship him, you will create other things to give your life to.  
~ Rick Warren

Jesus is so glorious, that even if you only have a partial view of his greatness, he is enough to thrill you.  
~ John Piper

We have a responsibility to awe.  
~ Jason Silva

**Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**  
~ King David