



Discussion Guide for “Magnificent Refinement”

Raise Your Voice Week 2

Who do you most identify with in the Christmas story? Maybe we most love Mary and Joseph, or the magi on their road trip, or the shepherds. The song Mary sings while she’s pregnant with Jesus is a reminder that Christmas is about more than gifts and parities... it’s about God rescuing the world. What does that mean for us? Well... it depends on where we are in God’s story.

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Malachi 3:1-4](#)

[Luke 1:46-55](#)

[Luke 1:68-79](#)

[Luke 3:1-6](#)

[Philippians 1:3-11](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week’s sacred reading is [Luke 1:46-55](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. With whom do you tend to identify most in the Christmas story? Why?
2. Do you think of the Advent and Christmas seasons as times of refinement? Why?
3. Read Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 1:46-55. Why is refinement such a big part of God’s story?
4. As you consider your life, where do you think you would be located in Mary’s song?
5. What does refinement look like in your life this Advent season? How is God preparing you?