

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

ICE BREAKERS

1. NT Wright, "What would make you celebrate wildly, without inhibition"?
2. When did someone make a false assumption about you? How did it feel? Do you correct it? Are you closer to that person now or not?
3. What assumptions do we make about others? What real/true things inform those assumptions? When have your assumptions turned out to be wrong?

Read the texts again and discuss first impressions.

1. Elizabeth greets Mary with knowledge - she has heard that the Lord is using her - and is filled with joy. When God speaks in a direct way to us we should look for confirmation from others who are aware of God's Spirit. What do you think of being aware of confirmation when you sense a leading from the Spirit?
2. Elizabeth speaks out loud several "blessings". Look at those and think about the way we can speak life, encouragement, hope, to those around us. What does speaking blessing sound like today? How countercultural is it? (did you watch the Mr. Rogers Movie...?)
3. Mary's response is art, prose, song and I imagine, she was dancing a little bit. How does art function in inviting us to turn over our assumptions?
4. Inner experience/knowledge of God causes her to worship and the worship, the art, the song, the play - strengthens her voice and resolve. What is about art and music, and specifically if it names Jesus as alive and at work - that empowers us? What does it do to our thinking, emotions, experience? Why do we have go-to songs, poetry, art, memories, etc. How do they function for us?
5. Jesus wants to be the centre of how we process life. How can you take a next step in centering Jesus in your mind and habit this Advent?

PRAYER:

DECEMBER 6 ■ ADVENT 2

honest
advent
breath
+
assumptions

REVELATION 1:8. LUKE 1:43

You know what they say about ASSUMPTIONS...

This Sunday we look at how God breathes and breaks the curse of old assumptions. The Holy Spirit moves and reveals several ways we can break out of what we think will never change.

This Advent season we explore moving in and out of nostalgia and familiarity and tending to God's presence in our lives. As part of our Advent journey, we will be using Scott Erickson's book, *Honest Advent*, in which he tells us, "This [Advent season]...is an exploration of finding the God-with-us coming into our midst now....the Birthday Boy hiding out in the mechanics of this life—the one you're presently living."

Revelation 1:8, New Living Translation

"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One."

Luke 1:43, New Living Translation

Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me?

ADVENT BASICS REVIEWED

- Advent is the opposite of romanticizing the past.

- Advent is about the second and first coming of Christ

- Advent is about learning to live in-between, yet/not-yet

BREATH AND ASSUMPTIONS

Two Songs of the Revolution- The *Benedictus* and *Magnificat*. Revolutions come with art.

Parables are also about....

Mary and Elizabeth/ Mary visits Elizabeth 39-45+ Magnificat 1:46-56

FIVE REVERSALS

FINAL WORD/NEXT STEPS