



## Songs of Christmas wk2: Benedictus

**Introduction:** Most Christmas songs are full of joy, and so are the original songs of Christmas. However the joy that is revealed comes as a response to the fear and pain those experiencing these events have endured. The songs that arise from Christmas testify to God’s faithfulness and bank on His responsiveness. What if we anchored our joy and hope in those same things?

### Discussion Questions

1. The last line of “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” contains the phrase, “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” What are the hopes and fears that the song references?
2. Read Malachi 4:5-6 and Luke 1:16-17 Why is it significant that Luke begins his gospel with a direct reference to the end of the Old Testament?
3. Read Luke 1:5-7 Are there any Old Testament parallels you recognize in this couple? What pain or assumptions even are confronted with this couple not having children?
4. Read Luke 1:68-79 Why does Zechariah write about salvation coming even though Jesus hasn’t even been born yet? What themes do you see in this song? What transformations can you see that God allows as referenced here?
5. What do you think about the idea that just as Zechariah connected what he was experiencing with what God had promised and had been planning, our stories are also connected to what God has planned and is doing? Where have you seen transformation in your life?

**Shaping Your Mind** – *“...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:17*

**Moving Forward** – May this Christmas find you prepared for the Lord.