



HOLY NIGHT

D I S C U S S I O N G U I D E

A conversation about overcoming a sense of
uneasiness and a sense of unworthiness

COME | The
And SEE CHOSSEN

Watch

Before you watch the episode...

Take a moment to read a few passages from the gospels that inspired “Holy Night”:

- Luke 1:26b-38
- Matthew 1:18-25a
- Luke 2:1-20

Discuss

A conversation about overcoming a sense of uneasiness

1. The ‘flash forward’ scenes show an uneasy church. There’s worry and an ache at the edges of Mother Mary’s eyes, but she’s startlingly stoic. How can she show such resolve?
2. How are *you* responding to the things that are most troubling you right now? Be as relentlessly honest — and specific — as you feel comfortable. Have you been able to foster the faith and faithfulness you see in Mother Mary? How?
3. One way Mary overcomes unease is by placing *present-tense* stories alongside stories of the *past* — the Christmas story, for example — and it inspires faith and faithfulness. There’s power in remembering scriptural stories and even *personal* stories. What are the stories, both Scriptural and personal, that you need to remember in your unease?

A conversation about overcoming a sense of unworthiness

4. The moment the young shepherd draws near to Jesus is especially powerful, because he could have easily remained at a distance due to feeling unworthy. What are the reasons he might have felt that way? What are the reasons we do?
5. The episode makes it quite clear: the young shepherd *is* worthy. How would you articulate *why* he is? (Which is also to ask — why are we worthy?)
6. How can we hold fast to the truth that we are worthy when we’re so prone to talk ourselves out of this truth?
7. Let’s look outward: who’s most made to feel unworthy of Jesus in our culture? How can you be with them in tangible ways in their pain over this? How can you speak to their pain?

Pray

Here is a suggested script for transitioning the group into a time of closing prayer:

I know each of us was comforted by something in this episode, and each of us was commissioned to live life in some new way in light of this episode. And this means each of us could offer up a prayer of thanks, alongside a prayer for God's help in living a new way of life. So we're going to pray, but here's how we're going to do it: I'm going to ask you two questions, and we're going let your answers serve as prayers...

Closing Question #1: If you were to offer a word of thanks to God for something that comforted you in this episode, what would it be?

Closing Question #2: If you were to ask God's help in living life in a new way in light of this episode, how would you sum up this new way of life?