

# Christmas Wonders Listening Guide

Somewhere in the midst of the wrappings and lights, we've allowed the holy to become the ho-hum and the miraculous to be reduced to the mundane.

## THREE KINDS OF WONDER

1. "Wonder" (n.) ~ an inexplicable event that is remarkable, strange, and unfamiliar; more commonly referred to as a miracle
2. "Wonder" (v.) ~ questioning a surprising event with amazed astonishment
3. "Wonder" (v.) ~ to feel amazed admiration caused by the unexpected and unexplainable; to be in awe, to marvel

## TWO WAYS TO RESPOND

Stuck in a perplexed state, can't get past our questions → Distrust & Doubt  
~OR~

Trust and obey despite unanswered questions → Awe & Worship

Will our inability to understand God drive us to doubt or will our wonder lead us to worship?

***God accomplishes incredible and puzzling wonders that cause us to wonder who He really is and what He's doing in our lives. When we respond to His mysterious ways with faith and obedience, we regard Him with awe and wonder***

# FOUR WONDERS OF CHRISTMAS

## **WONDER #1: Assurance ~ The Promise**

God promised us a Savior.

**Scripture:** *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15)*

## **WONDER #2: Advent ~ The Arrival**

God with us. Jesus, our Immanuel.

**Scripture:** *“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” (Matthew 1:23)*

## **WONDER #3: Abiding ~ The Indwelling**

God in us. The Holy Spirit, our Counselor, Comforter, and Empowerer

**Scripture:** *“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (Acts 8:1a)*

## **WONDER #4: Awaiting ~ The Return**

God will return for us (Christ’s victory; triumphal celebration)

**Scripture:** *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words. (1 Thess 4:16-18)*