

Making Room in Advent Week Three

Discussion Questions

- 1) In this week's message, Pastor Aaron asked, "What do you do about people who are different from you? He shared he surmised, because of the words shared around him, that Native American people are lazier than him, African American people are angrier than him, and Jewish people are less trustworthy than he is. Pastor Aaron explained these were beliefs he had to unlearn as a follower of Jesus. Contemplate the lessons you learned from family and friends growing up that you need to unlearn. Spend time in prayer and ask God to help you see that every person is essential in the Kingdom of God. What might you need forgiveness for in how you have thought or treated others?
- 2) On page 37 of the Making Room in Advent devotional, the author writes regarding Mary, "She has nothing truly remarkable about her: no wealth, no familial stature, no great accomplishments, nothing but the vessel God has already given her—her mind, body, and soul." In Pastor Aaron's message, he alluded to the shepherds and how low they were considered in society at the time of Jesus' birth. Consider how God sees people differently compared to how humans see other human beings. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.'" How is the Holy Spirit at work in you through this teaching?
- 3) Tom Drehmel, Mission Coalition Leader & a Central Group Leader, shared with the staff about a book he is reading by J. Heinrich Arnold called "Discipleship." Here is a quote from the author: "*Discipleship is not a question of our own doing; it is a matter of making room for God so that he can live in us.*" On page 37 of the Making Room in Advent devotional, the author writes, "So what does Mary need in order to host the Messiah? She needs to make herself available to make room physically, emotionally, and spiritually for him to dwell within her and stretch her into something new." How can you make room for God this Advent season and in 2024 so He can more fully dwell within you and work through you in love?
- 4) Read Luke 2:8-21. In Pastor Aaron's message, he explained how the shepherds would not have been used to being included in something so magnificent as the proclamation of Jesus' birth. Who might God want you to include during Christmas or in 2024? Is there someone you have looked down upon that God wants to love through you? What is God asking of you?
- 5) Ponder on Day Eleven of the Making Room in Advent devotional. The author writes on page 50, "Like Mary, when we surrender our whole selves to God and approach him with humility, we are available for him to do something miraculous

in and through us.” How is humility key to what we learn in Pastor Aaron’s Advent messages and the devotional? Meditate on The Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55. How do Mary’s words stir your heart, mind, and soul toward humility?