

Making Room in Advent Week Two

Discussion Questions

- 1) In this week's message, Pastor Aaron shared how Christmas "magnifies" our messes. Do you have difficulty in a relationship? Are you struggling with mental or physical health? Are you experiencing financial stress? Pastor Aaron reminded us that Christmas is a time that will magnify our troubles because the season is meant to be the happiest time of year. Take a moment to consider how this might be true for you or someone you love.
- 2) Our messes tend to speak lies over us. For example, if you are a parent struggling in a relationship with a child, you may falsely believe you are a terrible parent. Maybe you are experiencing financial difficulties and think you will never recover. On page 25 in the Making Room in Advent devotional, the author writes, "There, she could draw from the eternal source of his love, wisdom, and energy to become something new. She could shed her previous name, the 'barren old woman,' and receive her true name, Elizabeth, which means, 'my God is my oath.' What lies and false names, because of your mess or the mess of your past, do you believe? How can you create space for solitude with God this Advent to learn His truth about you?"
- 3) Read Luke 1:26-45, Luke 2:1-21, and Matthew 1:18-25. Contemplate the messiness of the Christmas story. In Pastor Aaron's message, he shared how God could have worked without the messiness of the story, but He didn't. Pastor Aaron reminded us that God magnified the mess of Jesus' birth to make room for our messes. How does the Christmas story bring you hope?
- 4) On day 6 of the Making Room in Advent devotional, the author challenges us to make room for favor, reminding us that we do not earn God's love but receive it. What is the difference? Wrap a small empty box and place it under your Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, open the gift to remind you and your family to receive God's love this Christmas.
- 5) On day 7 of the Making Room in Advent devotional, the author writes on page 33, "Love calls us to descend into our own vulnerability to love the most vulnerable." How is following Jesus calling you to be vulnerable in service to a person or persons?
- 6) Read Luke 18:9-14. Kingdom righteousness works from the inside out because it first produces in us a changed heart and new motivations. Why is humility a key component as we love and serve others?