

WEEKLY GUIDE

DECEMBER 12, 2021

1 GATHER! SUNDAY AND THURSDAY

2 TALK! DISCUSS THE LESSONS

3 DO! PUT THE LESSONS INTO PRACTICE

4 PRAY! MAKE YOUR REQUESTS KNOWN TO GOD

BIBLE READINGS:

Luke 2:6-7; 2 Corinthians 7:1-3; Matthew 25:31-46; Proverbs 18:16; Luke 12:16-18; Hebrews 13:2; Mark 2:1-5; Matthew 9:23-25

LUKE 2:6-7

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:2-3

Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you.

MATTHEW 25:37-40

The righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

PROVERBS 18:16

Your gift makes room for you, and ushers you into the presence of the great.

HEBREWS 13:2

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

MARK 2:2

So many gathered together that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door.

MATTHEW 9:23-24

When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping."

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DISCUSSION:

Do you think if all those in Bethlehem knew Mary would give birth to the Messiah, she would have gotten a different reception? Would you have made room for Joseph and Mary if they showed up at your house? Why do most people not recognize Jesus? In what ways does Jesus disguise himself to us? What is meant by "the least?" Why is it so important that we leave room in our heart and lives for others?

Have you ever taken time to count your blessings? What are some that come to mind? What gifts do you have? Why does God give us blessings and gifts? Why should we share our blessings and not store them up? In what ways do our gifts make room for us and bring us into the presence of the great? Can you name a few examples from the Bible? Who is the greatest?

What does it mean to be show hospitality? Why should we not forget to entertain strangers? What are you willing to do to bring people to Jesus? How can a cluttered heart keep you from ministering to others? What are some things that crowd your heart? What does it look like to declutter your heart? How can you rid yourself of all the noise and distractions in the world today? How can you make room for Jesus?

APPLICATION:

What impacted you the most from this lesson? What were your big takeaways? What will you apply to your life? How will you put what you learned into practice in your life this week?

SUMMARY:

If you want to be sure you are making room for Jesus, you must make room for others. If all those in Bethlehem knew Mary would give birth to the Messiah, they would have given her a different reception. Today, Jesus isn't visible to the common eye. He is often hidden. Jesus likes to disguise himself as the least of these.

We must not forget to show hospitality to strangers. Many store up their blessings and gifts rather than share them with others. It is important to make room in our heart for others. Mary made room for Jesus. Joseph wanted to put Mary away privately. This baby wasn't convenient. It wasn't even his, but Joseph change his mind and made room for Jesus. The wise men prepared their gifts beforehand. Their gifts brought them before the king. What gifts do you have? Your gifts will make room for the King and bring you into His presence, especially as you minister to others.

Many live such busy lives that there is no room for the things that really matter. The world is a noisy place. A cluttered heart can keep you from ministering to others. Our heart can be filled with worry and anxiety, busyness, frustration, emptiness, sorrow, resentment, unforgiveness, and regret, just to name a few. It's time for a heart check; time to remove the junk and make room for Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

