



advent 2019

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MAKE HIM ROOM / ADVENT 2019

Advent. Despite being good news of great joy, this can be one of the busiest, most stressful, and for some, the darkest seasons of the year. What we wish was a time of joy and peace, is instead filled with the noise and busyness of Christmas activities, the stress of strained relationships, or the heaviness of loss and grief. In the midst of this, God is inviting us to let our hearts and minds be tuned to the good news of Christmas. This Advent, we invite you to make room for Jesus; to make room for the impossible, for the unexpected, for worship, and for hope.

In addition to this discussion guide, Doxa has created a Daily Advent Devotional Guide to help you make room this Christmas. To find the daily guide, download the Doxa app from your app store on a phone or tablet or visit: doxa-church.com/guides.

PART 3: MAKE ROOM FOR WORSHIP

READ THE TEXT: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration

when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is
pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The shepherds were frozen in fear when they encountered the angel surrounded by the glory of the Lord. Yet, the angel speaks good news into their fear...news that God was sending the Savior. The angel proclaimed that rather than God being against them, God was working to rescue them through the Messiah. The angels proclaimed “good news of great joy for all people” to the shepherds, revealing that Advent brings good news to the fears that so easily control us. The shepherds respond in worship, going directly to find Jesus in the stable and worship the newborn King.

If you're processing these questions as a missional community, take time to gauge whether these will best be answered in smaller groups or all together. Feel free to break into smaller “DNA-sized” groups if that's helpful.

1. How are we all worshippers? How do our fears connect to our worship? Take a moment to discuss these ideas.
2. What are you fixated on? What do you fear most? It could be that you fear losing the approval or acceptance of others, the power of a title or position, the security you feel when your finances are in order, or the momentary comfort an addiction brings. Is worshipping this bringing true comfort and joy? What do you see this fear or worship producing in your life? Take time to share this with each other.
3. In light of what you just shared, take time to speak the “good news of great joy” to one another in ways specific to each other's fear. Take a moment to remind each other of “good news” truths about God and what He has done. Try to be as specific as possible. In other words, good news about God may sound different to someone living in fear of losing the

acceptance of others compared to someone living in fear of losing the security they gain from their finances.

4. Our worship makes room for others to worship. Who has God put in your life that might be moved towards worship after hearing how He has taken away your fear and given you rest? Take time to pray together for these people. Pray that God will opportunity to share what He is doing in your life with them and that He will release them from their fears to worship Him.