



Connect Group Discussion Guide

1. What does it mean to “make space” for someone in our lives?
2. In what ways do people, in general, make space for others? In what ways do you make space for others?
3. One of the major themes of the Christmas story is making room for Jesus. The most obvious reference is the Luke verses. Read them aloud.
4. Jesus himself teaches about making space for Him in Mark 4 through the parable of the soils. Read the Mark verses. Jesus interprets the parable for His disciples later in this chapter and His breakdown goes like this:
There are 4 different ways that people relate to Me—
 - Controlled by birds (those who Satan immediately sweeps Me from them)
 - Filled with rocks (Those who are shallow, and thoughts of Me burn up at first time of trouble)
 - Overrun by thorns (those who have different priorities and have no time for Me)
 - Then there are those that make preparations for Me and I reproduce that time in them up to 100 fold

Can you relate to any of these “soils”? If so, in what ways?

5. It is this last soil in the bullet above (the prepared soil) that we should concentrate on because they have figured out how to combat Satan, remove rocks, pull out thorns, and to allow Jesus to flow in their lives. How have you figured out a way to do this? Are you still in the process of figuring this out? How can we help?
6. Three positive actions to take to remove the negative results (read the verses and think about how they can apply to people of faith):
 - Make proper preparations (Read the Ephesians verses)
 - Dig deep (Read the 2 Timothy verse)
 - Prioritize (Read the Matthew verse)
7. Two practical steps we can take for this to happen in our lives:
 - Have time set aside (holy times) for you to be with God
 - Find “sacred” places where you can be in the presence of God

In what ways do these strategies help?

Series:

***Manger Things; Making the Manger the Main Thing
“Space for Jesus”***

Week of November 28, 2021

Main Idea

In our lives, it is more important that it has ever been for us to make space for Jesus.

Key Scripture Reference(s)

Read aloud:

Luke 2:6-7

Mark 4: 3-8

Ephesians 6:11-12

2 Timothy 2:15

Matthew 6:33

Your Faith in Action

What steps will you take this week to **show** others what you believe (in words, and in deeds)?

Mon: _____

Tue: _____

Wed: _____

Thu: _____

Fri: _____

Sat: _____

Sun: _____

This is a constant element, so you can practically live out your faith everyday.