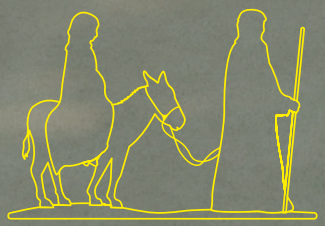
6 week advent



Make Room

a Journey Through the Promise of His Presence

Week One

created for His presence

summary

The Christmas story didn't begin in a manger. It began with a God who desired to dwell with His people

What if I told you that the Christmas story didn't actually begin in a manger? What if, to fully understand the beauty of Christ's coming, we needed to go all the way back to the beginning?

Back to Eden.
When God created mankind, He didn't simply create us to exist on the earth. He created us for fellowship with Him. We were fashioned as spirit, soul, and body, reflecting the very nature of our triune God–Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And in the garden, Adam and Eve experienced something that I believe our hearts still long for today: unhindered fellowship with the presence of God.

There was no striving to get into His presence. No separation. No veil. Just God dwelling with His creation. But then came the fall. And I want us to recognize something here. The enemy didn't simply tempt Eve to disobey a command. He planted a seed of doubt about the very character of God.
Could He really be trusted? Was He withholding something good?
And that lie changed everything.

Sin entered the world, and the fellowship mankind was created to enjoy was broken. But here's what I don't want us to miss: God never stopped pursuing His people. From the sacrifices of the Old Testament to the tabernacle and the temple, we see the unfolding story of a holy God making a way to dwell among His people again. And then came Jesus. The baby in the manger wasn't God's backup plan. He was the fulfillment of a promise. The expression of a love that had been pursuing us from the very beginning. And when Jesus gave His life and the veil was torn, what had separated us from the presence of God was removed.

Church, this is the beauty of Emmanuel. God with us.
The very presence mankind was created to dwell in has been made available to us through Jesus Christ. And now, by His Spirit, God doesn't simply dwell among His people. He dwells within us.
So as we begin this Advent journey together, I want to challenge us to consider something. If Jesus has already made the way, what is keeping us from living in the fullness of His presence? What subtle lie have we believed about God's character? Where have we questioned His goodness, His faithfulness, or His desire to be near us?
Because maybe making room this Advent season isn't about trying harder to get closer to God.
Maybe it's about recognizing that He has already made a way for us to come near.
Let's make room for the One who has been pursuing us since the garden.

Week One

created for His presence

day by day deep dives

Day 1: Fashioned for Fellowship
Reading: Genesis 2:7; Genesis 3:8

Devotional: Before sin, before sacrifice, before the manger, there was a garden. God did not create humanity as an afterthought. He formed mankind with intention, breathed His own breath into human lungs, and walked with His creation in the cool of the day. That image is not merely historical. It is the heartbeat behind the entire gospel story. The God who made the universe decided something was missing, and that something was you. This Advent season, sit with that truth. You were not created to merely know about God from a distance. You were fashioned for nearness, for daily fellowship, for the kind of intimacy that requires nothing between you and Him.

Reflection: What does it mean to you personally that God chose to create you for relationship rather than simply for service?

Day 2: The Lie That Divides
Reading: Genesis 3:1-6; James 1:17

***Devotional**: The serpent did not tempt Eve with fruit alone. He tempted her with a question about God's character. He suggested that perhaps God could not fully be trusted, that perhaps He was withholding something good. That same lie echoes today. It whispers that you are not good enough to enter His presence, that your past disqualifies you, that God's goodness has limits. James reminds us that every good and perfect gift flows from the Father of lights, in whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. The enemy's oldest strategy is to make you doubt the nature of God. Do not let him.*

Reflection: What specific lie about God's character or your own worth have you been entertaining? Bring it honestly before the Lord today.

Day 3: Love Was the Vehicle
Reading: John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Isaiah 7:14

***Devotional:** Jesus was not tricked into coming. He was not reluctantly sent. Love was the vehicle that carried Him from eternity into a manger, from glory into the humblest of circumstances. The prophet Isaiah foretold that God Himself would come and dwell among His people, and in the fullness of time, that promise became flesh. When the Christmas story feels familiar to the point of being routine, ask the Holy Spirit to make it alive again. The incarnation was not a theological event to be studied. It was a radical, reckless act of love aimed directly at you. Let that land somewhere deep this week.*

Reflection: When did the love of God last genuinely move you? Ask Him today for a fresh revelation of what it cost Him to come.

Week One

created for His presence

day by day deep dives

Day 4: The Veil Is Torn
Reading: Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 10:19-22

Devotional: *When Jesus gave up His spirit on the cross, the thick curtain separating ordinary people from the presence of God was torn from top to bottom. That direction matters. It was not torn from the bottom up by human effort. It was torn from the top down by God Himself, declaring that the way into His presence was now open. The writer of Hebrews urges believers to approach the throne of grace with boldness. Not timidity. Not shame. Boldness. Whatever weight of religion, guilt, or unworthiness has kept you lingering outside the veil, hear this clearly: the Father tore it Himself because He wanted you inside.*

Reflection: Are you approaching God with boldness or with hesitation? What would it look like to take Him at His word and draw near today?

Day 5: Christ in You
Reading: Acts 2:1-4; Colossians 1:27; John 14:16-17

Devotional*: The story does not end at the manger. It does not even end at the empty tomb. It culminates in this staggering reality: the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now dwells inside every believer. Christ in you, the hope of glory. The gift of Christmas is not merely a beautiful story to revisit each December. It is the beginning of a chain of events that ends with God taking up permanent residence inside His people. You are the temple now. His presence is not reserved for a building, a service, or a season. He is with you today, in the ordinary, in the questions, in the waiting.*

Reflection: How would your daily life shift if you lived with a constant awareness that the Holy Spirit dwells within you right now, in this moment?

Week One

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key verses

- Genesis 1:26-27 – God creating humanity in his own image and likeness
- Genesis 2:7 – God breathing life (Ruah) into man
- Genesis 3:1-7 – The serpent deceiving Eve and Adam in the garden
- Genesis 3:21 – The first blood sacrifice, God making coverings from animal skins
- Exodus/Leviticus (general) – The Levitical priesthood, sacrificial law, and altar of atonement
- James 1:17 – Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights, with no variableness or shadow of turning
- Isaiah 7:14 – The prophecy of a virgin conceiving and bearing a son called Emmanuel
- Luke 1:11-20 – The angel appearing to Zechariah regarding Elizabeth conceiving John the Baptist
- Luke 1:26-38 – The angel Gabriel appearing to Mary
- Matthew 1:18-25 – The angel appearing to Joseph
- Luke 2:1-7 – Jesus born in a manger
- John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God
- John 1:14 – The Word made flesh, dwelling among us
- Matthew 4:1-11 – Jesus tempted in the wilderness, rebuking Satan with scripture
- Matthew 26:53 – Jesus stating he could call legions of angels
- John 10:11, 15, 17-18 – No man takes Jesus's life; he lays it down freely
- Colossians 2:15 – Jesus making an open show of the enemy, disarming principalities and powers
- Revelation 1:18 – Jesus holding the keys to death, hell, and the grave
- Matthew 27:51 – The veil of the temple torn from top to bottom at Jesus's death
- John 20:1-16 – Mary at the tomb, mistaking Jesus for the gardener
- 1 Corinthians 15:6 – Jesus appearing to more than five hundred after his resurrection
- John 14:16-17 – Jesus promising to send another Comforter, the Holy Spirit
- John 16:7 – It is better that Jesus goes away so the Holy Spirit can come
- Acts 1:4-5 – Jesus instructing the disciples to wait in Jerusalem
- Acts 1:15 – Approximately 120 gathered in the upper room
- Acts 2:1-4 – The Holy Spirit falling at Pentecost, tongues of fire, speaking in other languages
- Acts 2:14-15 – Peter declaring the disciples are not drunk as supposed
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 / 6:19 – The believer's body as a temple of the Holy Spirit
- John 10:27 – His sheep know his voice
- John 10:10 – Jesus came to give abundant life
- Colossians 1:27 – Christ in us, the hope of glory
- Daniel 7:25 – The enemy seeking to wear out the saints
- Ephesians 6:17 – The word of God as a sword
- John 3:16 – God so loved the world that he gave his only Son

Thematically Relevant Verses Not Explicitly Named

- Romans 5:12 – Sin entering the world through one man
- Hebrews 9:22 – Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin
- Isaiah 64:1 – The Lord rending the heavens and coming down
- Psalm 61:3 – God as a strong tower
- John 15:1-5 – Jesus as the vine, the Father as the gardener, pruning and bearing fruit
- Romans 8:15 – The spirit of adoption by which we cry out "Abba Father"