

Small Group Guide: No Room at the Inn

Luke 2:1-20



Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help you apply these truths to your lives.

Ice Breaker

What's one Christmas tradition you've always had? How does hearing the Christmas story outside of the Christmas season change your perspective on it?

Sermon Summary

This sermon explores the birth of Jesus through Luke 2:1-20, highlighting the profound humiliation Christ experienced from the moment of His birth. While the glory of God that fills the entire universe was contained in Mary's womb, the world had "no room" for Him at the inn. The religious and wealthy rejected Him, while humble shepherds—society's

outcasts—were the first to worship Him. This pattern of rejection by the proud and acceptance by the humble continues throughout Jesus' ministry.

Key Takeaways

1. **The Incarnation is Mind-Blowing:** What takes the entire universe to declare (God's glory) was contained in a single cell at conception.
 2. **Rejection Started at Birth:** Jesus' humiliation didn't begin at the cross—it began in a feeding trough because there was no room for Him.
 3. **God Uses Unlikely People:** Caesar Augustus thought he was in control, but God used his decree to fulfill 700-year-old prophecy.
 4. **The Humble Recognize Their Need:** Shepherds (society's rejects) worshiped Jesus, while the wealthy and religious overlooked Him.
 5. **We Still Make Room—Or Don't:** Just as there was no room at the inn, we often have no room for Jesus in our hearts.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Read Luke 2:1-7.** What does it tell us about Jesus that He entered the world in such humble circumstances? What does this reveal about God's character?
2. **The sermon emphasized that "the glory of God is contained within a single cell at conception."** How does this perspective on the incarnation impact your understanding of who Jesus is?
3. **Why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first witnesses of Jesus' birth?** What does this say about who God values?

Personal Reflection

4. **The sermon asked: "Do I want to fit in with the world or do I want to be like the shepherds?"** Which group do you find yourself more naturally aligned with—those who had no room for Jesus, or the shepherds who immediately went to worship Him? Why?

5. **Where in your life might you be making "no room" for Jesus?** (Consider: your schedule, your finances, your relationships, your entertainment, your ambitions)
6. **Mary "pondered these things in her heart" (v. 19).** What does it look like practically to ponder God's work in your life? How can you cultivate this practice?

Application

7. **Caesar Augustus was focused on his own glory and what he was owed.** In what ways do we live for our own glory rather than God's? How can we shift our focus?
8. **The shepherds "made widely known" what they had seen and heard.** Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus? What's preventing you from sharing with them?
9. **The sermon stated: "I'd rather be a part of the story that's everlasting than the one that's temporary."** What temporary things are you prioritizing over eternal things? What needs to change?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

- **Daily Pondering:** Like Mary, set aside 10 minutes each day to reflect on who Jesus is and what He's done. Journal your thoughts.
- **Make Room:** Identify one area where you've crowded Jesus out and intentionally create space for Him (prayer time, service, worship, etc.).
- **Share the Story:** Tell at least one person this week about Jesus—especially someone who might feel like an "outsider" or "shepherd."
- **Humble Recognition:** Write down areas where you need Jesus to save you from yourself (not just your circumstances). Pray through this list daily.

Scripture Memory

Luke 2:10-11 *"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"*

Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God that Jesus humbled Himself to enter our broken world
- Confess areas where we've had "no room" for Him in our lives
- Ask for humble hearts that recognize our need for a Savior
- Pray for boldness to share the good news like the shepherds did
- Request grace to prioritize eternal things over temporary ones

5-Day Devotional: Making Room for the King



Day 1: The Humble Entrance

Reading: Luke 2:1-7; Philippians 2:5-8

Devotional: The King of the universe entered our world not in a palace, but in a feeding trough. What took the entire cosmos to declare—God's glory—was contained in a single cell, then wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid among animals. This wasn't divine humiliation by accident; it was intentional sacrifice from the very beginning.

Consider today: What does Christ's humble entrance teach you about true greatness? The world seeks recognition, comfort, and status. Jesus chose obscurity, discomfort, and lowliness. His rejection didn't begin at the cross—it started at birth when there was "no room at the inn."

Reflection: Where in your life have you prioritized comfort and recognition over humble service? How can you make more room for Christ today?

Day 2: No Room in the Inn

Reading: Luke 2:7; John 1:10-13; Revelation 3:20

Devotional: "There was no room for them in the inn." These words echo through eternity as a sobering picture of humanity's response to God. Mary's womb had room to contain the King of the universe, but the world He created couldn't find space for Him.

How often do our hearts mirror that ancient inn—full of everything except the One who deserves to be there? We fill our lives with pursuits, possessions, and priorities that crowd out the Savior. Jesus still stands at the door and knocks, waiting for us to make room.

The innkeeper's rejection wasn't malicious; it was simply neglectful. He was too busy, too full, too occupied. Are you?

Reflection: What occupies the "rooms" of your heart? What needs to be cleared out to make space for Jesus?

Day 3: The Shepherds' Response

Reading: Luke 2:8-20; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Devotional: While the wealthy, religious, and powerful rejected Christ, the lowly shepherds—society's outcasts working the night shift—received the angelic announcement. They didn't let their humble station convince them they weren't worthy of God's call. They didn't let circumstances determine what they saw.

The shepherds recognized something the innkeeper missed: they needed a Savior. Those who know they're sick seek the physician. Those who recognize their poverty embrace the King who makes them rich. The shepherds didn't just visit; they worshiped, then "made widely known" what they'd seen.

God consistently chooses the unlikely to reveal His glory, reminding us that salvation isn't about our worthiness—it's about His grace.

Reflection: Do you see yourself as needing a Savior, or have you become self-sufficient? How can you respond like the shepherds today?

Day 4: Fulfilling Ancient Promises

Reading: Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-6; Romans 8:28

Devotional: Caesar Augustus thought his decree was about his glory, his taxes, his empire. He had no idea he was a puppet in God's hands, fulfilling prophecy written 700 years earlier. God orchestrated world events—the timing, the census, the travel—to bring His Son to Bethlehem exactly as promised.

What Caesar intended for self-aggrandizement, God used for salvation. This is the beautiful sovereignty of our God: He works all things—even the decrees of pagan emperors—for His purposes and our good.

Today, 2,000 years later, we remember the baby in the manger, not Caesar's tax revenue. Earthly power fades; divine purpose endures. God is still sovereign over every circumstance in your life.

Reflection: What situation in your life seems beyond God's control? How does Jesus' birth remind you of God's sovereignty?

Day 5: Choosing Your Story

Reading: Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 6:19-21; Hebrews 11:24-26

Devotional: Every person in the Christmas story made a choice: the innkeeper chose convenience; Caesar chose self-glory; the shepherds chose worship; Mary chose surrender. Two thousand years later, we still face the same choice: Will we be part of the temporary story that makes it all about us, or the eternal story that makes it all about Him?

The world will always reject what is innocent, pure, and true in favor of what serves itself. But eternity offers far more than temporary acceptance. The shepherds were rejected by society but received by heaven. They chose to be part of the everlasting story.

Which story are you choosing? The one the world will forget, or the one that echoes through eternity?

Reflection: In what areas are you prioritizing worldly acceptance over