



Discussion Guide — 12/14/2025

Series: *Around the Manger: Stories of Advent*

Message: *Innkeeper's Story*

Scripture: Luke 2:6-7 (NRSVUE)

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, You who made room for us in Jesus, open our hearts and our homes. Give us courage to welcome the weary, wisdom to set loving boundaries, and eyes to recognize You among “the least of these.” Amen.

Warm-Up (Quick Connect)

- Share a six-word “holiday memoir” for your week (light or serious).
- Name a time you found unexpected hospitality—or offered it.

Introduction & Context

Luke tells the birth simply: a child wrapped, a manger used, and “no place in the guest room.” Whether we imagine a public inn or a crowded family home, the point lands—there wasn’t space. This week we stand in the innkeeper’s sandals and ask: what keeps us from making room, and how does Jesus meet us there? As with our Six-Word Advent practice, we’ll use brief phrases to spark holy imagination (e.g., “My inn is full,” “I did not take them in,” “The room He needed was me”). Matthew 25 frames our response: welcoming the stranger is welcoming Christ.

Read Scripture Aloud

Luke 2:6–7 (NRSVUE)





Discussion Questions

1) Seeing the Text

- What details in Luke 2:6–7 stand out to you?
- How does the “guest room” translation shape your understanding (crowded family home vs. commercial inn)?

2) Standing with the Innkeeper

- Imagine you are the householder. What pressures (census crowds, family obligations, limited space, risk) feel most real?
- Offer a six-word line that captures the innkeeper’s inner world (e.g., “Too many guests; not enough grace”). What does it reveal?

3) “No Vacancy” in Us

- Where do you notice a “no vacancy” sign in your life—home, calendar, budget, attention? What fuels it (fatigue, fear, convenience, past hurt)?
- When is “no” wise stewardship (safety, healthy limits), and when is it self-protection that closes us to Jesus?

4) Family, Guest Rooms, and the Wider Household of God

- If the setting is a relative’s home, how does it complicate the story? What parallels do you see in your own family systems?
- What does Christian “kinship” look like during Advent? Who counts as family at your table?

5) Recognizing Christ (Matthew 25 Echo)

- Read Matthew 25:35–36 quietly. Which line tugs at you today—food, drink, welcome, clothing, care, presence? Why?
- Where have you recently encountered Jesus disguised as “the least of these”?

6) From Regret to Response

- If you were the innkeeper looking back, what six words would you want to write now?
- What is one ordinary way your group could “make room” this week (shared meal, ride, gift card, childcare)?





Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, born where there was no room, make room in us. Turn our houses into havens, our calendars into carriers of grace, and our lives into guest rooms for Your love. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Making room for others is how we make room for Christ.

P.A.R. (Pray • Act • Reflect)

Pray

- Pray about whom God is sending to your door (home, heart, schedule). Sit in quiet for one minute and write the first name or group that comes to mind.
- Breath prayer for the week: inhale “Make room,” exhale “Lord Jesus.”

Act

- Share your “guest room.” Offer literal space, space in your schedule, or space in your budget to meet a concrete need for the person/group that came to mind. Put it on the calendar within 48 hours.

Reflect

- Did you notice a “no vacancy” sign in yourself? What prompted it—fear, fatigue, convenience?
- If/when you made room, what happened—in them, in you?
- How might you continue opening your life to others beyond this week?

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