



Making Room





The theme of the holidays!



Externally



Internally



...for others!



...for the unexpected!



...for forgiveness!

...because it is the core quality of God's character that we are intended to experience and to replicate...

...because it is the core quality of God's character that we are intended to experience and to replicate...

...it is giving up the 'right' to hurt someone because they have hurt us!

...because it is the core quality of God's character that we are intended to experience and to replicate...

...it is giving up the 'right' to hurt someone because they have hurt us!

Forgiveness sets the table for the possibility of rebuilding trust and experiencing reconciliation.

...because it is the core quality of God's character that we are intended to experience and to replicate...

...it is giving up the 'right' to hurt someone because they have hurt us!

Forgiveness sets the table for the possibility of rebuilding trust and experiencing reconciliation.

Making Room

If you are going to make room...

...for others

...for the unexpected

...for forgiveness...



Making Room

If you are going to make room...

...for others

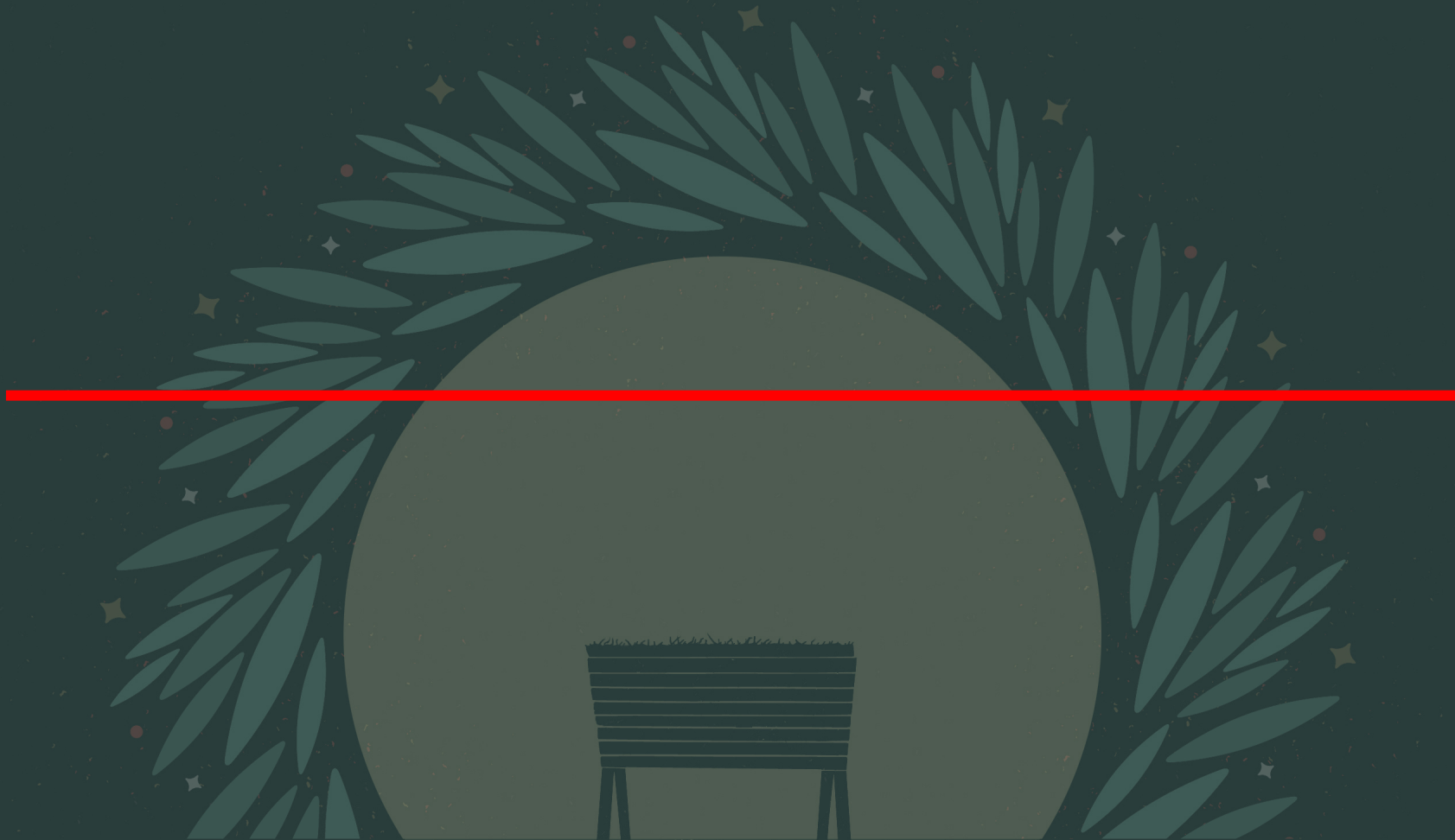
...for the unexpected

...for forgiveness...

...then you have to make room

for the presence of God!

Making Room



Making Room

50% of people who make a decision to entrust their lives to Christ do so before their 14th birthday.
(4/14 window: 4 yrs. old to 14 yrs. old)



Making Room

50% of people who make a decision to entrust their lives to Christ do so before their 14th birthday.

(4/14 window: 4 yrs. old to 14 yrs. old)

64% ...before their 18th birthday.

Making Room

50% of people who make a decision to entrust their lives to Christ do so before their 14th birthday.

(4/14 window: 4 yrs. old to 14 yrs. old)

64% ...before their 18th birthday.

Young people are making foundational decisions concerning what their lives are going to be all about.

Making Room

50% of people who make a decision to entrust their lives to Christ do so before their 14th birthday.

(4/14 window: 4 yrs. old to 14 yrs. old)

64% ...before their 18th birthday.

Young people are making foundational decisions concerning what their lives are going to be all about.

Adults have already filled their lives with all sorts of things and find it more difficult to rearrange their messed up priorities and paradigms.

Making Room ...for God Himself!



Making Room ...for God Himself!

When you are “afraid”,
and
when it is “not yet” ...



Making Room ...for God Himself!

When you are “afraid”,
and
when it is “not yet” ...

...illustrated by two groups of people
connected to the birth of Christ.













For those who are afraid:



For those who are afraid:

Luke 2

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.





⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.



⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.



¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”



¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God

for all they had heard and seen,
as it had been told them.

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was
circumcised, he was called Jesus,
the name given by the angel before he was
conceived in the womb.



For those for whom God is “not yet”:



For those whom God is “not yet”:

Matthew 2

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.



⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.



⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.



¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother,

and they fell down and worshiped him.

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



Making Room

So....therefore....what now?

**At this point in your life, are you afraid
to make room for God?**

**At this point in your life, are you afraid
to make room for God?**

What's going on in your life
that would make it awkward
to invite God to join you?

**At this point in your life, are you afraid
to make room for God?**

What's going on in your life
that would make it awkward
to invite God to join you?

Are there things in your past
that make you feel like you can't imagine
God accepting you?

At this point in your life, do you have a hard time believing that God is going to reveal Himself and His plan?

**At this point in your life, do you have a hard time
believing that God is going to reveal
Himself and His plan?**

Are you willing to patiently wait and diligently watch
for what God is going to do?

At this point in your life, do you have a hard time believing that God is going to reveal Himself and His plan?

Are you willing to patiently wait and diligently watch for what God is going to do?

Are you ready and willing to worship God both now and when He reveals Himself and His plan?



Making Room

