



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Prepare Him Room”

Preached by Jon Egan

December 21, 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Jon delivered an Advent sermon focused on preparing room for Jesus in our hearts and lives. Drawing from Isaiah 40 and John 1, he emphasized that we are living in a 'wilderness season' - the time between Christ's first coming and His return. The central message was about clearing space for God rather than just making space, addressing how modern 'hustle culture' and overwhelming choices can crowd out room for the Savior. Using the metaphor of the inn in Bethlehem having no room, Pastor Jon challenges us to examine our attachments and busyness that might be preventing us from fully receiving Christ. He taught about the spiritual discipline of detachment - not having less but needing less - and how letting go of our tight grip on things allows us to receive God's gifts with open hands.

Key Passages

- Isaiah 40:3-5
- John 1:19-23
- Matthew 6:21

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own
Heavenly Father, as we gather during this Advent season, we welcome You into our midst. We acknowledge that You are the Prince of Peace, and we invite Your presence to calm our hearts and minds. Lord, we come with open spirits, ready to hear what You want to speak to us today. Help us to set aside the distractions and busyness of our lives so that we can truly listen to Your voice. Prepare our hearts to receive whatever You want to teach us through this time together. We ask that You work in each of our lives in the way that You see fit. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one Christmas tradition or memory from your childhood that always brings you joy when you think about it?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Pastor Jon mentioned that 'the wilderness is not punishment, it's preparation.' How does this perspective change the way you view difficult seasons in your life?
2. The sermon talked about how 'God does not compete for space, He waits for it.' What are some things in your life that might be competing for the space that belongs to God?
3. What's the difference between desire and attachment according to the message? Can you think of an example from your own life?
4. The pastor said to 'look at your anxieties to discover your attachments.' How does this reveal about areas from which you need to detach?
5. How does our culture's 'hustle mentality' and constant busyness affect our ability to connect with God and others?
6. The sermon mentioned that detachment is 'not about having less, it's about needing less.' How might this principle change your approach to material possessions or achievements?
7. How can we prepare room for Jesus not just in our personal lives, but also in our relationships and communities?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life

This week, identify one attachment or area of busyness that is crowding out space for Jesus in your life. Practice the spiritual discipline of detachment by intentionally letting go of this one thing. Each day, spend time in prayer with open hands (literally), asking God to fill the space you've cleared with His presence and peace. Notice how this affects your anxiety levels and your capacity to love others well.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- We are living in a 'wilderness season' between Christ's first and second coming, and this wilderness is preparation, not punishment.
- God doesn't compete for space in our lives – He waits for us to clear space for Him.
- The difference between desire and attachment is that attachment demands specific outcomes for our happiness.
- Modern hustle culture and overwhelming choices can crowd out room for the Savior, just like the inn in Bethlehem.

- Detachment is about needing less, not having less - it's opening our hands to receive God's gifts rather than clinging to our own plans.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, as we conclude our time together, we thank You for speaking to our hearts about making room for You. Help us to carry this message with us throughout the week as we prepare to celebrate Your birth. Give us the courage to let go of the things we're clinging to that prevent us from fully receiving You. May our lives become a clear pathway for others to see Your glory. As we face the busyness of this season, remind us that You are the Prince of Peace who brings rest to our souls. Help us to live with open hands, ready to receive all that You have for us. We pray that our hearts would truly prepare You room, not just this Christmas, but every day of our lives. In Your precious name we pray, **Amen**.