



MAKING
ROOM
FOR CHRISTMAS

Week #3: Make Room for Each Other

Mary immediately got up and hurried to the hill country, in the province of Judah, where her cousins Zacharias and Elizabeth lived. When Mary entered their home and greeted Elizabeth, who felt her baby leap in her womb, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth (shouting): *You are blessed, Mary, blessed among all women, and the child you bear is blessed! And blessed I am as well, that the mother of my Lord has come to me! As soon as I heard your voice greet me, my baby leaped for joy within me. How fortunate you are, Mary, for you believed that what the Lord told you would be fulfilled.*

Mary: *My soul lifts up the Lord!
My spirit celebrates God, my Liberator!
For though I'm God's humble servant,
God has noticed me.
Now and forever,
I will be considered blessed by all generations.
For the Mighty One has done great things for me;
holy is God's name!
From generation to generation,
God's lovingkindness endures
for those who revere Him.
God's arm has accomplished mighty deeds.
The proud in mind and heart,
God has sent away in disarray.
The rulers from their high positions of power,
God has brought down low.
And those who were humble and lowly,
God has elevated with dignity.
The hungry—God has filled with fine food.
The rich—God has dismissed with nothing in their hands.
To Israel, God's servant,
God has given help,*

*As promised to our ancestors,
remembering Abraham and his descendants in mercy forever.*

Mary stayed with Elizabeth in Judea for the next three months and then returned to her home in Galilee.

Luke 1:39-56 (VOICE)

Teacher: *For everything that happens in life—there is a season, a right time for everything under heaven:*

*A time to be born, a time to die;
a time to plant, a time to collect the harvest;
A time to kill, a time to heal;
a time to tear down, a time to build up;
A time to cry, a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, a time to dance;*

...and I know God has made everything beautiful for its time. God has also placed in our minds a sense of eternity; we look back on the past and ponder over the future, yet we cannot understand the doings of God. I know there is nothing better for us than to be joyful and to do good throughout our lives; to eat and drink and see the good in all of our hard work is a gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4, 11-13 (VOICE)

1. **Pull** _____.

Shoulder each other's burdens, and then you will live as the law of the Anointed teaches us.

Galatians 6:2 (VOICE)

Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. ...

James 5:16 (MSG)

2. **Pause to** _____.

*If your heart is broken, you'll find God right there;
if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath.*

Psalms 34:18 (MSG)

3. **Pursue** _____.

4. **Plan to** _____.

Discussion Questions

1. This season, what are you mourning? What are you celebrating?
2. What is one way you can invite God into the real season you're in?

Recommended Resources

- *The Broken Way: A Daring Path into the Abundant Life*, by Ann Voskamp
- *No More Faking Fine*, by Esther Fleece
- *Gethsemane Prayer*, John Mark Comer Teachings podcast
- *Where Does It Hurt?* With Kobe Campbell, In The Light with Dr. Anita Philips podcast

(VOICE) The Voice

(MSG) The Message

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1. **Pull people in.**

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Psalms 34:18 (MSG)

3. **Pursue rest.**

4. **Plan to celebrate.**

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