

A House of Presence

Open The Conversation: What's something in your life that makes you feel most 'at home' — a place, a habit, a person, or even a moment?

Key Scripture: Read the following together.

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" 29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

Mark 12:28-30 NKJV

1. What does this scripture tell me about me?
2. What does this scripture tell me about God?

Start Sharing: Choose one question to start the conversation, move onto others if time allows.

- Psalm 27:4 speaks of desiring "one thing" — to dwell in the Lord's presence. What is currently competing with your desire to dwell in the presence of the Lord? How can you reorder your priorities so He is your one thing?
- Jesus calls us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). Which area (heart, soul, mind, or strength) do you find the hardest to fully surrender to Him right now? Why?
- In Luke 10:38–42, Mary chose "the better part" while Martha was distracted with serving. How can we as a church or small group create rhythms that prioritize ministering to the Lord over merely serving Him?
- In the message we talked about how Jesus felt at home in Bethany — "the house of hunger" — because people tended to His heart. What would it look like for our community to become a "Bethany" for Jesus today — a place where His presence is welcomed and His heart is tended to?

Start Praying: Pray together and for one another.

"God, our hearts one desire is to be a people and a place of Your Presence. We hunger for you alone. Help us to keep You as our portion, and love You with our whole lives. Amen."