

Home – Pt 1 – A Place
December 7, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

Open Up:

- What is home to you?
- What is a place from your childhood that still lives clearly in your imagination? Why do you think it left such an impression?

Read Together:

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Genesis 1:31

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Genesis 3:23

So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

Genesis 12:1

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

Matthew 1:20-21

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Isaiah 11:1

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Isaiah 35:1-2

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Discuss Together:

- Stephen mentioned that nostalgia literally means "the pain of wanting to return home." Where do you feel that kind of "homesickness" spiritually or emotionally in your life right now?
- How does Luke 2:1-7 emphasize the importance of "place" in the story of Jesus' birth, and why do you think Luke includes so much geographical detail?
- Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden began humanity's longing for home. Where do you see evidence in our world of that longing for union with God?
- Abraham followed God without knowing where he was going. What does it look like for you to trust God with a place or season that feels uncertain or unfamiliar?
- Isaiah describes a desert bursting into bloom. What "desert places" in your life need renewal, hope, or new growth right now?
- The message said that Christmas "pings us with a distant homeland." Where do you sense God stirring a desire for deeper connection with Him this season?
- How does the Christmas story reframe our understanding of "home" in Scripture—from a physical location to a relational reality centered on Jesus?

Pray:

Pray for God to awaken your awareness of His presence in the places you live, work, and walk. Ask Him to meet your longing for "home" with a deeper experience of Jesus, Immanuel—God with you.

Invitation:

Choose one physical place you'll be this week—your home, your car, your neighborhood, your workplace—and intentionally pause there to acknowledge Jesus' presence. Ask: "Lord, how are you making Your home with me here?" Write down what comes to mind.