



STUDY GUIDE

December 11, 2022

Message Series:

Home

Message Title:

Going Home

Teaching Pastor:

Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min)

What interesting experience have you had while traveling with a group of people?

Pray:

Dear Lord, we acknowledge Your power and grace and we are blessed by Your presence. Help us to understand the depth of Your love and that You actually have pursued us by coming to earth. When we take time to really think about what You've done it changes us. You are the only one who will bring true fulfillment in this life; the only who helps us feel like we're home. Guide our learning now and give us more understanding as we study together. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- This series is called HOME. When you hear the word "home" what comes to mind?

"God gives humanity a single rule and humans, tempted by the false promise of greater knowledge and power, break that rule and forever damage the perfect relationship between them and God. The trust was broken, and their home wasn't the same. The cycle of distrust of God and distance from God has continued ever since...but God never forgot what His home once felt like. He never stopped longing to reestablish complete protection, provision, and partnership with us again. He did everything He could to draw us back to Him, and even though we continued to walk away from Him, He never walked away from us. He knew that having an intimate relationship with Him was the best thing for us, but amazingly, He knew it was the best thing for Him too! -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read John 1:38-39.

- Some of Jesus' disciples met him for the first time in these verses. What did he say to them? When is the first time you recall being introduced to Jesus?
- Share a story when you felt that God was protecting you, providing for you or partnering with you in something.

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 12:30 min., 20 min. discussion)

- Pastor Elijah spent some time in Matthew 4 talking about Jesus' temptations. Describe a time you were far from home wandering in the desert which led to temptations.

"God was so discontent being separated from us that He left His home to come to our home to invite us to His home, our best home." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

- When have you felt most at home somewhere?

Reflect and Commit: (20 min.)

Read John 14:15-20,23 & Acts 2:38-39.

- The greatest gift you could receive this Christmas is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you received this gift already? If yes, describe when you received it. If not, spend some time listening to others' stories, ask questions and ask God for this gift.
- In verses John 14:18 and 23 Jesus promised without reservation that "I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." "The Father and I will come and make up our home with him." Spend some time discussing how we can become more aware of this reality that we are not orphans; we have a home. What must we do practically to live into this reality?

"None of us are truly home right now. Just like Jesus' miraculous birth, I know that it's hard to understand that concept. None of us have ever seen anything beyond the Earth or some random pictures of the universe. None of us were there at the beginning when things were as they should've been. And yet, as I said earlier, all of us know what it's like to long for something more. Whether we have a lot or a little, deep inside us rests a desire for complete fulfillment, unexplainable peace, unwavering hope, and unconditional love, and no matter where we look, how much stuff we accumulate or experiences we have or even people we surround ourselves with, everything falls short. Everything except a real relationship with God." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read Zephaniah 3:17 & Revelation 21:3.

- What is your response to these verses? What do these verses have to do with the concept of "home?"

"Joy, freedom, fearlessness, confidence, peace, love, blessings, mercy...this is home! It can be yours if you'll just accept it! And although you'll still be tempted to feel the things you feel right now, you'll always be grounded in the truth that God is with you, and in Him, you will always be home...So take Jesus up on His offer. Let go of what holds you back. You don't have to be alone any longer. You can come home. Come home. Come home." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, You left home to come to our home to invite us to Your home, our best home. Thank you for reestablishing that home and giving complete protection, provision, and partnership with us again. When we are guided by Your Spirit of Truth, we know the paths of life. We know where we're headed; we know when we're home. In this season, we especially have an opportunity to help guide others home too. We trust You. We love You and it's in Christ's name we pray. Amen.