ROOM BY ROOM

at Home

The God Who Moves In

God didn't just visit us. He moved in to stay, and that's how two people learn to live as one under the same roof.

On Sunday we walked through the house with God. This week, walk through your house. Take one room a night, or do all four in one sitting. Stand in the actual room, read the verse out loud, talk, and pray. It takes about ten minutes.

Living alone? Walk the rooms with God, and pray for the people who share your life: family, friends, and your church family.

1 THE FRONT DOOR

John 14:23 *"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."*

TALK ABOUT IT

Where have we seen God show up in our home this year?

PRAY

Lord, thank You for moving in. You were here first. Make Your home here.

2 THE KITCHEN TABLE

Romans 15:7 *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."*

TALK ABOUT IT

What's one thing I do that makes you feel at home? What's one thing I could do better?

PRAY

Lord, You took us as we are. Help us do the same for each other.

3 THE LIVING ROOM

Colossians 3:13 *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*

TALK ABOUT IT

Is anything sitting in the corner that we need to talk about? Take turns listening without fixing.

PRAY

Lord, we hand You what we've been holding. Carry it out of this house.

4 THE PORCH LIGHT

1 Corinthians 13:7–8 *"It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*

TALK ABOUT IT

What would staying power look like for us this year? What's one thing we can keep doing, even when it's hard?

PRAY

Lord, You aren't moving out. Give us strength to stay, to keep showing up, and to keep the light on.

SEVEN DAYS

A reading plan for the week

Monday	**John 14:15–23**	*God moves in*	☐
Tuesday	**John 15:4–12**	*Remain in His love*	☐
Wednesday	**Romans 15:5–7**	*Accept one another*	☐
Thursday	**Colossians 3:12–17**	*Bear with and forgive*	☐
Friday	**Ephesians 4:1–3, 29–32**	*Be kind and patient*	☐
Saturday	**1 Corinthians 13:4–8**	*Love that stays*	☐
Sunday	**1 John 4:12–16**	*God lives in us*	☐

A PRAYER FOR OUR HOME

Lord Jesus,
You didn't just visit us. You moved in, and You stayed.
Come into every room of our home.
Teach us to accept the way You accept,
to forgive the way You forgive,
and to stay the way You stay.
Make Your home here. Amen.

WHERE I SAW GOD AT HOME THIS WEEK

UNDER THE SAME ROOF · MESSAGE TAKE HOME

Becoming One: *"The Long Work"*

Pastor Jon Dunwell · November 1, 2026 · Matthew 19:1-12; Genesis 2:24; Psalm 127:1

> **BIG IDEA** God makes two people one at the altar. The long work is learning to live like it.

IN THREE WORDS ***Built. Joined. Becoming.***

Under the same roof is not the same as living as one. Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah picking favorites, Jacob and Esau fighting over a blessing: Genesis is full of families who shared a house without sharing a life. Every lit window has a story, and whoever is under your roof, this series is for you.

1 Ask Who's Building PSALM 127:1

"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain." The Hebrew word for house, *bayit* (BAH-yit), means a building, the temple, and a household or family line. And there's a wordplay: *banah* (bah-NAH) means build, *banim* (bah-NEEM) means sons. God builds a house by building a family. Verse 2 finishes the thought: anxious striving is in vain, "for he grants sleep to those he loves." Three reminders for the whole series: **Who is building the house? It's long work. Avoid the extremes** of passivity ("God will do it") and anxious striving ("it all depends on me").

> **THIS WEEK** Name one area of your home you've been trying to build in your own strength. Hand it to God in prayer.

2 Go Back to the Blueprint MATTHEW 19:1-12

In Herod's territory beyond the Jordan, the Pharisees set a trap: "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" Hillel's school said almost any reason; Shammai's said sexual immorality only. They asked **the Pharisees' question** (How do we get out of it?) instead of **the builder's question** (How do we build it?). Jesus skips the debate and goes back to the beginning, to the Creator's design. Moses *permitted* divorce "because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning." The real threat to a marriage is a hard heart. And when the stunned disciples say it's better not to marry, Jesus honors the single life as a gift and a calling, not a consolation prize.

> **THIS WEEK** When tension comes, notice which question you reach for. Trade "How do I get out of this?" for "How do we build this?"

3 Become One GENESIS 2:24 · MATTHEW 19:6

Genesis 2:24 has three verbs. **Leave** (*azav*, ah-ZAHV): your first loyalty shifts to the family you're making. **Hold fast** (*davaq*, dah-VAHK): cling, stick, choose to stay. **Become one flesh** (*basar echad*, bah-SAR eh-KHAD): two whole lives become one shared life. **Oneness is not sameness.** "Evening and morning" made "one day" (Genesis 1:5). And it's **done and doing**: Genesis says they *will become* one; Jesus says they *are no longer* two. "What God has joined together" literally means *yoked together* (*syzeugnymi*). God does the joining.

> **THIS WEEK** Thank God for one way your spouse (or the people under your roof) is different from you.

4 Shift the Question THE APPLICATION

Most of us start at **ME vs. YOU** (my needs, your needs) and settle for **ME + YOU** (a 50/50 deal). God calls us to **US**: a new identity. A **contract** asks "What do I get?", keeps score, and ends when needs aren't met. A **covenant** asks "What do we need?", keeps faith, and God holds it together. The old question is "My need or yours?" The new question is ***"What does US need?"***

> **THIS WEEK** Ask together: What does US need? Single or another household? Ask: What does my house need?

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KEY VERSES

Psalm 127:1-2	God is the builder. Labor without Him is empty (shav); rest comes from trust.
Matthew 19:3	The trap: divorce “for any and every reason.”
Matthew 19:4-6	Jesus goes back to creation. What God has joined together, let no one separate.
Matthew 19:7-9	Divorce was permitted because of hard hearts. “It was not this way from the beginning.”
Matthew 19:10-12	The disciples balk; Jesus honors singleness as a gift for the kingdom.
Genesis 2:24	Leave, hold fast, become one flesh: the original design.
Genesis 1:5	Evening and morning, one day. Oneness is not sameness.
Ezekiel 36:26	God replaces a heart of stone with a heart of flesh.
Ephesians 5:31-32	Marriage is a profound mystery that points to Christ and the church.

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Where have you been laboring in vain, trying to build your home in your own strength?
2. When conflict comes, do you tend to ask the builder’s question or the Pharisees’ question?
3. Which verb is hardest for you right now: leave, hold fast, or become one? Why?
4. What difference in your spouse (or someone under your roof) have you treated as a problem instead of part of “us”?
5. Is your home running more like a contract or a covenant? What would change if you asked, “What does US need?”

DAILY EXERCISES

Married? Do these together. Single or sharing a roof with family or friends? Use them with whoever is under your roof, or between you and God.

MON	**Ask Who’s Building.** Read Psalm 127:1-2 together and pray it over your home. Name one area you’ve been building on your own.
TUE	**Leave.** What competes with “us” for first loyalty: work, family, your phone, a hobby? Take one concrete step to put “us” first today.
WED	**Hold Fast.** Choose each other on purpose. Send a text, write a note, or say one specific thing you’re grateful for.
THU	**Celebrate the Difference.** Name one way you’re different that you’ve resisted. Thank God for it, then thank each other.
FRI	**Soften Your Heart.** Read Ezekiel 36:26. Ask God where your heart has hardened. Speak one soft word where you’d usually speak a hard one.
SAT	**Ask What US Needs.** Take 15 minutes. Ask: What does our marriage (or our house) need this week? Pick one thing and do it.

NOTES

NEXT SUNDAY *November 8: Acceptance, “Received.” Bring someone you share a roof with.*

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PRAYING FOR OUR ELECTION

Scripture to Guide Our Prayer

November 1, 2026 · End of Service · NIV

OPENING

On Tuesday our community, our state, and our nation will vote. Before we leave, we're going to do what Scripture tells us to do first. We're going to pray.

We're not praying for a party or a candidate. We're praying for our nation, for those who will lead it, and for ourselves, that we would reflect Jesus this week no matter how the votes come in.

1 GOD IS STILL GOD

Psalm 46:10

> *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

Daniel 2:20–21

> *Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*

PRAY

- Worship God as Lord over every nation and every outcome.
- Settle our hearts before Him. Our hope was never on a ballot.

2 FOR THOSE WHO WILL LEAD

1 Timothy 2:1–2

> *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

James 1:5

> *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

PRAY

- For every candidate, local, state, and national, and for their families.
- For wisdom, integrity, and humility in those who win.
- For grace and dignity in those who lose.

3 FOR VOTERS AND THE PROCESS

Micah 6:8

> *He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

PRAY

- That we vote with justice, mercy, and humility, not fear or anger.
- For poll workers, county auditors, and volunteers.
- For an election that is safe, fair, and peaceful.

4 FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AND OUR UNITY

Jeremiah 29:7

> *Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.*

Romans 12:18

> *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

PRAY

- For Newton, Jasper County, Iowa, and our nation.
- We share a roof with neighbors, coworkers, and family who will vote differently. Ask God to keep us kind.
- For the church to be a place of peace this week, not division.

5 FOR OURSELVES

2 Chronicles 7:14

> *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

PRAY

- Humble us. Healing starts with God's people, not with the other side.
- Search our hearts for pride, fear, and contempt. Turn us back to Him.

6 CLOSING

Philippians 4:6–7

> *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:20

> *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Close in prayer. Congregation may respond with "Amen."

Whatever happens Tuesday, Jesus is still King, and the God who moved in isn't moving out. Go in peace.