

MY HEART CHRIST'S HOME

COVENANT CHURCH
SUMMER 2021



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month: My Heart Christ's Home
Text for the Week: John 15:1-8
Message for the Week: "May I Come In...To The Living Room?"
Theme for the Week: Practicing the presence of God.

Week 7

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week?
Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

If you were to plant an orchard, what type of fruit trees or vines would you plant?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read [John 15:1-8](#) out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

How many moments of your day do you fill with a conscious awareness of God's presence? What practices help you become more aware of God's presence?

What role is "hurry" playing in your life right now? How is it affecting you?

How would life at home, church, work, and in our neighborhood be different if we saw and responded to each other through Christ's eyes and with Christ's heart?

When your heart is restless, what do you try and fill it with?

When your vine is wilted, how do you get your spiritual energy and focus back? A) Drink some water: Spend time alone with God. B) Cultivate the Soil: Seek encouragement from friends. C) Fertilize: Sign up for a retreat of Bible study. D) Take out the hot sun: get away from the stress. E) Submit to pruning: admit where I've been wrong. F) Wait for evening's cool: get some sleep.

"Try It!"

Find a comfortable chair to sit in. Download and read *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence.

<https://ccel.org/ccel/l/lawrence/practice/cache/practice.pdf>

Pick up and read a copy of the booklet, "My Heart, Christ's Home" by Robert Munger. Editions for both adults and children are available in the narthex.

Try keeping a spiritual journal this summer of what you are learning through this series - both through the messages and in your personal times with God.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Pray this prayer: "Lord, I want this heart of mine to be Yours. I want You to settle down here and be fully at home. I want You to use it as Your own. Let me show You around and point out some of the features of the home so that You may be more comfortable. I want You to enjoy our time together. AMEN"

Spiritual Practice for the Month: Invitation

During the month of July, attend one or more of the Wednesday Nights on the Lawn gatherings with someone you know who lives near you, who you work with, who is on your sports team, and/or who you have been praying for. Enjoy getting to know them better!