A Place at Home



October 2026 Bulletin

IPC HEBRON LOS ANGELES

Exists to Exalt, Edify, and Evangelize

A Place at Home

By Pr. Baiju Mathew

When we hear the theme "A Place at Home," what comes to our mind? Many things can come to our mind, like a deep sense of safety, personal comfort, and belonging. How about if we applied this to the Church? We will see a shift from a physical house to a spiritual home or a true family where we should belong. In our fast-paced world, "home" isn't just a physical address; it is a sanctuary for our souls. So, the Church should be our spiritual home, a place of unconditional acceptance and a family of God where people are welcomed and can find rest for the weary.

We all know the deep human ache for home. It is a longing not just for a physical roof over our heads but for a place where we are fully known, safely held, and completely loved. But often in life, we wander, seek empty promises, and pursue the busy distractions of the world, only to find ourselves spiritually exhausted and empty.

Perhaps no story in Scripture captures this deep human longing better than Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son [Luke 15:11-32]. It is a journey away from and back to a place at home. The prodigal son thought that freedom and happiness lay far away from his father's house. He demands his inheritance and leaves for a "distant country." But when the famine hit, his resources ran dry, and he found himself in a pigpen, starving and broken. It was in that rock-bottom moment that Scripture says, "when he came to his senses," he remembered his father's house. He remembered home and his father.

When we lose our way, the remedy is always the same: turning our hearts back toward the Father.

The Father's Open Arms

The climax of the story is the breathtaking image of grace. While the son is still a long way off, the father sees him, is filled with compassion, and runs to meet him. The son expected to find a place among the servants. He thought he had lost his position as a son of the house. But the father doesn't treat him like a servant. Instead, he restores him completely, calling for the best robe, a ring for his finger, and a celebration. The message is clear: In our Father's house, we always have a place, and it is never lost.

This parable challenges us to look at our own homes. How can our physical households reflect the radical hospitality of the

A Place of Safe Return: Let our homes be spaces where family members and guests can drop their armor, admit their mistakes, and experience unconditional love.

A Place of Restored Identity: Use our daily habits to remind one another of who we are in Christ, grounding our households in grace rather than performance.

An Open Door for the Weary: Just as the Father watched the horizon, let us keep our hearts and homes open to those in our community who are still wandering in a distant country, looking for a place to belong.

No matter how far you have wandered or how long you have been away, the Father is watching the horizon for you today. Welcome home.

For Reflection:

- In what areas of your life do you feel tempted to wander away from God's presence to find fulfillment elsewhere?
- What triggers that desire to leave "home"?
- Do you ever feel like the son, assuming you have to "earn" your way back into God's good graces?
- How does it feel to realize the Father runs to meet you exactly as you are?
- What is one small, practical way you can make your living space feel more like the Father's house, a place defined by safety, forgiveness, and celebration?

A Father Who Comes Outside

By Keren Mathew

The story of the Prodigal Son is one of the most well-known stories that Jesus told. Usually, when we hear this story, we think about the younger son who leaves his father, wastes everything he has, and eventually comes home. But there is another part of the story that we I want to write about. The father came outside for both of his sons.
When the younger son returns home, Luke 15:20 says, "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him."The son had left his home and wasted his inheritance, but when he finally came back, the father did not turn him away. Instead, he ran to him and welcomed him back.

But the story does not end there. The older son was still outside. When he heard that his younger brother had returned and that his father was celebrating, he became angry and refused to go inside. The older brother had never left home, but his heart had become bitter. He was angry that his father was celebrating his brother instead of recognizing all the work he had done. But once again, the father came outside. Luke 15:28 says, "His father came out and entreated him."The father did not ignore him or leave him alone in his anger. He went out to him and invited him inside.

This shows us something important about the father. He wanted both of his sons at home. The younger son was far away because he had left, while the older son was far away because of his anger and bitterness. One son needed to come home, while the other needed to understand what it meant to be home. Yet the father went out to both of them.
Sometimes we can be like the younger son. We may turn away from God, make mistakes, or choose our own way. When that happens, we might feel like we are too far gone to come back. But the younger son reminds us that God wants us to return to Him. Other times, we may be more like the older son. We may be in church, serving, and doing what we are supposed to do, but inside we can become angry, jealous, or bitter. But the father also came outside for the older son.

The father did not only want his sons to be in the house. He wanted them to understand his love. In the same way, God does not simply want us to go through the motions of being Christians. He wants us to have a relationship with Him. Whether we are far away because we have run from Him or because our hearts have become distant, God calls us back.
Jesus ends the story without telling us whether the older brother went inside. I think that is important because it leaves the question for us. Will we come inside? Will we accept the Father's invitation and enjoy being with Him?

Take the Theme Home

Week 1: Finding Our Home in God

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

Psalm 23 reminds us that God is our Shepherd, providing guidance, rest, and comfort through every season.

Reflect:

- What does it mean to find your rest and security in God rather than in the things of this world?
- What areas of your life make you feel restless or uncertain?
- How does knowing God as your Shepherd change the way you face difficult circumstances?
- What practical steps can you take to make more room for God in your daily life?

Week 2: Returning to the Father

Scripture Reading: Luke 15

The parable of the Prodigal Son shows that God welcomes us home when we turn back to Him with repentant hearts.

Reflect:

- What can cause us to wander from God?
- Where have you sought fulfillment apart from Him?
- What does the father's welcome teach us about God's forgiveness?
- What area of your life needs to turn back toward God?

Week 3: A Place of Grace and Acceptance

Scripture Reading: Romans 8

Romans 8 assures us that there is no condemnation for those in Christ and that nothing can separate us from God's love.

Reflect:

- What does it mean to live without condemnation?
- Do you struggle to believe that God loves and accepts you?
- How does grace change the way you view your failures?
- How can you help someone feel welcomed and valued?

Week 4: Making Room for Others

Scripture Reading: Romans 12

Romans 12 calls us to love sincerely, serve faithfully, show hospitality, and help create a welcoming spiritual home for others.

Reflect:

- What makes a church feel like a spirital home?
- How can you show hospitality to someone who feels like an outsider?
- Who in your church or community may feel overlooked?
- What is one way you can help create a sense of belonging this week?

Stay Connected!

WEEKLY MEETINGS

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Tues	7:00 - 8:00 PM	@ Zoom
Fri	10:00 - 11:00 AM	@ Zoom
Sat	7:00 - 8:30 PM	@ Church

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
PYPA	October 10	Church
Cottage Meeting	October 17	Bro. Saji & Sis. Shiji's House
Picnic	October 24	Ralph B. Clark Regional Park
ICPF	Oct 30- Nov 1	Pinecrest Christian Conference Center

PRAY FOR NATIONS

COUNTRY	CAPITAL	EST. POPULATION
Burundi	Gitega	12,964,000
Cabo Verde	Praia	491,200
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	17,816,000
Cameroon	Yaoundé	28,629,000
Canada	Ottawa	42,194,000