

FIRST THINGS FIRST

One Desire

January 11, 2026



Message Summary.

Psalm 27 shows David's "one desire": to dwell in God's presence. This message calls us to re-center our lives by planting ourselves in the gathered church, where God shapes, heals, and strengthens us. When we prioritize gathering, we don't just attend; we flourish.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Psalm 27:4 | David's one desire is proximity to God: dwelling, gazing, and seeking Him consistently.

1 Corinthians 3:16 | God's Spirit dwells in His people collectively; His presence is multiplied in community.

Luke 11:23 | Following Jesus and gathering with His people belong together; scattering leads to vulnerability.

Acts 2:42 | The early church was devoted to teaching, community, communion, and prayer; together.

Hebrews 10:24-25 | Gathering is God's design for encouragement, perseverance, and growth.

Psalm 92:13 | Those planted in the house of the Lord don't just survive; they flourish.

Start Talking.

1. What's one habit or routine that shapes your week more than you realize?
2. When you hear the word church, what emotions or experiences immediately come to mind?
3. What's a funny or frustrating example of how "one thing" turned into many distractions in your life?

Start Thinking.

- David frames his priority as a desire, not an obligation. Why does that distinction matter?
- What makes isolation so appealing, and so dangerous?
- Why do you think God designed spiritual growth to happen best in community, not just privately?
- Which reason for drifting from church do you resonate with most: busyness, convenience, hurt, skepticism, or something else?

Start Sharing.

1. In what season of life has gathered worship strengthened you the most? What made that season different?
2. Have you ever experienced church hurt or disappointment? (Share only what feels safe.) How has that shaped your approach to community?
3. When life gets crowded, what usually gets first priority, and what gets pushed to the margins?
4. What would it look like for you (or your family) to treat church as a spiritual anchor instead of a leftover option?

Start Praying.

God, thank You for inviting us into Your presence, not just individually, but together. Forgive us for drifting, for letting convenience or pain reshape our priorities. Heal what has been hurt, restore what has grown thin, and plant us where we can flourish. Give us one desire: to dwell with You and grow strong with Your people. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing.

- Choose a rhythm: Commit to gathering weekly for the next four Sundays. Put it on the calendar now.
- Choose a connection: Identify one next step, group, serving team, or Starting Point, and take it.
- Name the obstacle: What most often keeps you from gathering? Write it down and pray over it.
- Reframe "busy": This week, replace "I'm too busy" with "That's not my priority," and make one small adjustment to reflect what matters most.