

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

February 10, 2008

Focus: To reflect on God's presence in our lives- even when we don't recognize it.

Shama The Lord is There

Introduction: Read the following statement and begin a conversation about its validity...“If you want to grasp the importance of something, it may help to consider what life would be like without it.”

Consider life without...

- Your children...your mother...running water?
- What would life without God look like for you?
- Compare our lives with God to a life without God.

Shama...the Lord is there. It is closely connected to the New Testament name of Immanuel which means God with us. Tonight we want to spend our time in scripture discussing life with and without the presence of God.

Text: Galatians 5:16-26

- Discuss the connection between the Spirit of God and the idea of Shama.
- 19-21...What strikes you as you read these things we become without God?
- 22-26...How have you seen these in your life as you walk with Him?
- Compare and contrast a life with Shama versus one without.
- Share other texts you think of when you think of God being with His people.

Application:

- Share how God has been here with you in both hard times and good times.
- Describe times you have felt he has not been present...was that a reality?
- If we are ambassadors of God, than we are to bring God to people. Are we doing that?

Closing Thought: There is an ancient Jewish practice called Sitting Shiva. When you lose someone that you love, you go over to their house and you sit with their family...you just sit. You don't say anything necessarily. If they want to talk, you talk. If they prefer silence, then there is silence. I wonder if we are the physical presence of Shama for a hurting world. I wonder if can are supposed to give the world what he gives us in his presence with us.