

# Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

*Focus:* To evaluate whether or not we allow God to be our shield and fortress as we examine a God who wants to walk with us in our struggle!

## Magen (ma-GAIN)

Shield, Fortress, Safety, Security

**Introduction:** Agree /Disagree... Your view of God comes directly from your father?

- Discuss
- When your father walks into a room, how do you feel?
- When you are alone with God...what do you feel? (safe, afraid, etc)
- When life is hard, where do you run?

Today we study the God who is our shield and our defender!

**Text:** Read each of the texts below and define the God you hear being spoken of.

1. Psalm 23
2. Psalm 91:1-16
3. Psalm 3:2-3
4. Psalm 61:1-3

**Application:** When you look at the world we live in there is struggle everywhere. Just in the last twelve months look at all the pain that this body had gone through. What do you do with that? Is God really our shield?

- Where do you find help when you are in trouble?
- How do you calm yourself when you are afraid?
- Do you bluff your way through?
- Do you run, hide, ignore, counterattack?
- Distinguish where God fits in here.

**Meditation:** Where do you run when fear explodes in your life...?

When you...fail...are rejected, struggle with \$, with your marriage, your children, aging, death?

**Prayer:** Couple with your spouse or friend and share a few thoughts from your meditation and pray for one another.