



Inside every one of us is the longing for home - not for a specific street address, but for meaningful relationships in which we can be fully known and loved. Unfortunately, in our fallen world this kind of life-giving community is rare. This is where the church comes in. In God's master plan he made a way for his people, filled with his Spirit to form a new community that transforms the world. This is what we were created for! I hope you will join us in this 9-week series as we learn to show the world there's no place like home.

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read Psalm 121:1-5. God's people are desert people. As a result the metaphors they used came out of the desert. And just like God led his people into the desert to teach them to depend completely upon him (Deut 8:2-5), God leads us through desert experiences to rid us of our self-sufficiency and to teach us to trust him completely. What kind of desert experiences have you had or are you in currently? How has this pushed you to the edge of your self-sufficiency?
2. In the stories of Hagar and Ishmael (Genesis 21) and Elijah (1 Kings 19), when they were in the desert, what did God provide for them to survive the deadly heat? How was this shade "just enough" to sustain them?
3. According to Psalm 121:5 the LORD promises to be our broom tree (i.e. to provide just enough shade to sustain us in the oppressive heat of the desert). Can you think of a time when you were in a desert and the LORD provided you with shade? How did it differ from your expectations? How was it "just enough"? How will this help you trust him to provide you with shade the next time you are in the desert?
4. God not only wants to be our shade in the desert but he also wants his people to be shade for others who are in the desert (Ps.80:8-10). In Isaiah 32:1-3 the prophet envisions a time when the Messiah will come and he and his people will be shade to those in the desert and, as a result, people will see and hear the truth. How is Acts 5:12-16 a picture of this?
5. God provides us with shade when we are in the desert, but he also transforms us into broom trees to provide shade to others who are in the desert. Yet this is only possible through the shade of another tree that Jesus Christ was crucified on to pay for our sins and to bring shalom to the chaos of life. Are you living under the shadow of this tree? If so, look around: Who do you know that is currently living in the desert? What are some practical ways you can be a broom tree to them? Will you pray and commit yourself to being a broom tree to those in the desert?