



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 Isaiah 43:12 (see also Acts 1:8). In this passage we learn that when God reveals himself to us he also calls us to be witnesses of him to others. In order to be effective witness, why is it essential that we live holy, set apart lives?
2. The Shephelah was the place between the Coastal plains (where the Philistines lived) and the Judean Mountains (where Israelites lived). It was in the Shephelah where Israel confronted the pagan Philistine culture. Whoever won these battles influenced the culture for good or evil. Where does the confrontation of cultural values take place in your world? In what ways do you try to avoid living for God instead of living in the Shephelah – the place where God's values meet the values of the culture?
3. In Judges 13-16, God called Samson to be set apart as a Nazarite so he could effectively confront the Philistine culture. Yet over time Samson compromised, and instead of confronting this godless culture, he became part of it. In which areas of your life have you compromised? How does compromise weaken your ability to take a stand for the LORD?
4. Jesus came to do what Samson failed to do – to confront evil, and he did this while living a perfectly holy life in a godless world. And the good news is that when you trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ he forgives your sins and makes you holy. In response to God's grace, if you have compromised will you confess this by completing this sentence: "I renounce _____ and I ask the LORD and this body to help me live out who I am in Jesus Christ."
5. When you trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he also empowers you by his Holy Spirit to be a Shephelah person – to take a stand against the evil in our culture. Which aspect of your culture do you believe God would have you confront? What will you do about this?