

NAME DROPPING

Name Dropping: Week Five—"Jehovah Shalom"

CONNECT: Scott shared about watching movies with his kids and the plotline of "A Bug's Life." What are your favorite genres of movies? What's your favorite snack at the theatres? Do you love seeing new movies or watching your favorites over and over?

GROW:

1. **Read Judges 6:1-27.** What would it have felt like to be in Gideon's shoes? What surprised you about his interaction with the angel of the Lord?
 - o *V 15-16.* Have you ever felt ill-equipped for the task at hand? You know there's a problem. Something that needs to be faced. Something that needs to be dealt with, but you don't think you're the one to face it and so you resolve to simply keep the peace. Why did Gideon feel that way? How did the Lord respond?
2. God is the one who accomplishes the victory and He could have done it without Gideon. So why does He send Gideon into battle? Could it be that the real battle is an internal one, not an external one? Could it be that God wants to reconcile some things going on inside His children's hearts even more than He wants to reconcile what's going on with their crops?
3. In the Old Testament instead of saying, "*How are you?*" someone might say, "*How is your peace?*" Peace was far more profound than what was going on, on the outside. Is it possible to have internal peace regardless of your current circumstances, culture, or country? What does it take to develop this kind of internal resilience?
4. Scott said, ***Peace is not the absence of conflict, it's the presence of Jesus.*** Dealing with issues is scarier and more costly than avoiding them. In what ways are we prone to keep the peace at all costs? Can the absence of conflict ever become the thing we pursue over Jesus?
5. Discuss this quote together as a group: ***Maturity is the capacity to endure uncertainty.*** Look back at your own life, has uncertainty been one of the biggest barriers to peace? What have you learned, how have you matured?
6. **Read John 14:27.** Jesus' life was full of conflict, so how was He able to say a statement like that? How would you answer the question if Jesus asked you, "How is your peace?"

PRAY: As a group, ask God to help you grow in your faith to trust His faithfulness in every situation and circumstance. Thank Jesus that He, Himself, is our peace and He has promised to be with us always. Ask God to help you each be peace-makers and to extend that same hope to those around you.

NEXT: Reflect on the series we've walked through. How has learning the names of God impacted your relationship with Him and understanding of who He is? Talk with God about each name: *Yahweh, El Shaddai, Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Rapha, Jehovah Shalom.*