session one

OMNIPRESENT

yes/no/maybe:

- 1. I prefer being alone, rather than being with people all the time.
- **2.** There are bad places people go where God does not follow.
- **3.** God's presence is most likely to be where two or three are gathered together.
- **4.** God goes where He pleases.
- **5.** God announces where He wants to go.

scripture:

Psalm 139:7-10 [niv]

7 Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.



DISCUSS: If God is omnipresent, why do we feel so alone so often?



∞ WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

- > Omnipresent: all present/present everywhere.
- > **Pantheism**: all God/God is everything and everyone, and everyone and everything *IS* God.

 ° Why do you think this distinction matters? How do these two views change the character of God?

Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." ∞ Does that mean that God is more likely to pay more attention when there are more of us? What do you think this verse is saying?

> In Job's case, it felt like God was hiding from him (Job 23:8-9). "But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. 9 When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him."

° Why do you think God chooses to not reveal Himself at times? Is it a test or something else?

∞ Isaiah 57:15 says that God inhabits eternity: "For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.'"

> This text says that God lives in two places at once. What do you notice about those places?

 ∞ The book of Revelation has a very tangible statement in Rev. 3:20: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

> This verse says that God is not only present, but that he is polite by not barging into our private space. But even more than that, He is actively announcing his presence by knocking. What does this mean to you?

prayers

- 1. God, how can I recognize Your presence in my life better?
- 2. How can I grow more contrite and humble, so that God's presence will be fully felt in my life?
 - 3. How do I see God differently now, after this conversation?

