

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

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Where Are You?

Genesis 3.8-9

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3.8-9

DISCUSSION

In this sermon series, we will see how big questions are asked and answered through scripture, and we will be offered a chance to grow through asking our own questions and seeking God's answers.

In Genesis 3.8, when God asks Adam and Eve, "Where are you?" it is not because He does not know where they are. He is asking WHY they are hiding. Thomas asserts that if we think we know exactly where we are in life, then we could in fact be very lost. We tend to hide some parts of our story, and promote only the parts we want people to see.

- *Consider ways in which you might be hiding. What parts of your own life might be the easiest to hide? What are the easiest parts to promote? Discuss with your group how we are not living in truth with ourselves when we hide parts of our story.*
- *How might social media play into this for you? If you use it, does it make you feel better or worse? How does it keep us from asking the tough questions?*

Inherent in the question, "Where are you?" is an invitation to emerge, just as God invites Adam and Eve to emerge from hiding. This is different from being caught, as we can continue to hide behind our sins and shortcomings and choose not to step forward out of the darkness. It is when we take a step forward away from our habits of hiding that change and transformation can begin to take place in our lives.

- *Do you see God calling you to step forward in any certain areas of your life? In these areas, how might you see opportunities for change and transformation emerging?*
- *Confessing our sins each week at worship in the presence of God and others provides us an opportunity to show God our true selves. What are some ways which will help you build upon this practice throughout the week?*
- *Consider and discuss the question for this week, "Where are you, and do you trust God enough to emerge?"*

PRAYER

Lord we thank you for your Word in scripture which teaches us so much. Thank you for calling us out of our hiding places so that You can make changes in us. We pray this week for the strength to emerge from the shadows of comfort where we hide, and to show our true selves to You. Thank you for the gift of community with whom we can walk. Amen.