

UNMASKED

Hiding from God

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

³"It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" ⁴"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

⁸When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. ⁹Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked." Genesis 3:1-10

And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife. Genesis 3:21

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What was your favorite Halloween Costumer or mask you wore as a child? How differently did you act when you were wearing it?
- Why do adults still have fun putting on masks and costumes and pretending to be other people? What is it that makes it so enjoyable?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Genesis 2:25 tells us that Adam and Eve were naked and felt no shame. Genesis 3:7 tells us that when they sinned, they immediately felt shame because of their nakedness. What does that tell us about the effects of sin?
- Why did Adam and Eve try to hide from God in the trees? Did they really think they could hide, or was something else at play?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How have you experienced satan's shame game? How has shame impacted you?
- Why is it so easy for us to believe the lies that are caused by shame?
- How can you take the shame you have experienced and use it to grow stronger in your faith?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You loving us and covering our shame. Help us to run to your grace and love instead of trying to hide from you in our shame. Set us free from the lies we have believed and set us free to walk in close relationship with you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Take off all your masks and have an honest conversation with one person this week.
- Confess to God the sin and hurt that is causing your shame and hindering your relationship with Him. Release the burden of your shame and hurt to Him.
- For every lie you have believed, find a scripture that tells you the truth and begin to focus on the truth of God's word instead of the lie of shame.