

BETTER TOGETHER

Come Out of Hiding – Study Guide

Key Truth: Real community begins where pretending ends.

God designed us to live life together. From the beginning of Scripture we see that humanity was created for relationship with God and with one another. But when sin entered the world, hiding began. Shame, fear, and brokenness caused people to cover themselves and withdraw from honest relationship. Many believers still do the same today. We attend church, worship together, and hear the Word, yet many of our struggles remain hidden. This study guide explores why people resist community and how God is inviting us to step out of hiding and into healing relationships.

Opening Scriptures

- Genesis 3:7 – Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.
- James 5:16 – Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9 – Two are better than one.

Icebreaker

What is one place where you feel most comfortable being yourself?

Discussion: The Beginning of Hiding

- Why do you think shame causes people to hide?
- What are some “fig leaves” people use today to hide what is really going on in their lives?
- How can pretending everything is fine keep us from experiencing real healing?

Discussion: Fear of Exposure

- Why does it feel risky to be honest about struggles?
- How does James 5:16 challenge the idea of keeping struggles hidden?
- What would it look like for believers to create safe spaces for honesty?

Discussion: When Hurt Causes Us to Hide

- Why does past hurt make it difficult to trust people again?

- What is the difference between healthy boundaries and isolation?
- How can the church become a place where people feel safe to open their lives again?

Discussion: Independence and Pride

- Why do people often say, 'I can handle this myself'?
- How does Ecclesiastes 4:9 challenge the idea of doing life alone?
- In what ways has community helped you grow in your faith?

Jesus Shows Us a Different Way – John 4

- What does the story of the woman at the well teach us about Jesus' response to brokenness?
- Why is it important to know we can be fully known and still loved by Christ?
- How should Jesus' example shape how we treat others in community?

Personal Reflection

- Ask the Lord: 'God, where have I been hiding?'
- Consider a struggle you have been carrying alone.
- Consider a place where fear or shame has kept you silent.
- Consider a relationship where God may be inviting you to be more honest.

Weekly Challenge

- Share something honestly with a trusted believer.
- Ask someone to pray with you about a struggle.
- Reach out to someone in your group this week.
- Invite someone into a deeper conversation about faith.

Final Reminder

God has never called us to hide. Just like in the garden, He is still asking the question: **Where are you?**

Not to shame us, but to invite us out of hiding and into healing. Because disciples don't just attend church. They walk together. And that is why we truly are **Better Together.**