

IF YOU ONLY KNEW

WHY PEOPLE HIDE FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

IF YOU ONLY KNEW, PART 3: RUNAWAY

Because of our sin, so many of us spend our time isolated from God and from others. We run. We run because we believe the lie that we can't be fully known and fully loved. And yet as we run from God, we discover something utterly astonishing. While we were running from God, he was running to us.

BIG IDEA: When you were running away from God, God was running to you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

** Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. Did you ever run away from home as a kid? What happened?
2. When you sin, is your natural inclination to run toward God or to run away from Him?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Psalm 32:3-7 and Romans 5:6-11.*

³ *When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴ Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Interlude ⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude ⁶ Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. ⁷ For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory. Interlude* Psalms 32:3-7 (NLT)

⁶ *When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.*

Romans 5:6-11 (NLT)

4. How do these texts show us that we have nothing to fear when we meet God?
5. Why do you think most people are afraid to allow God full control of their lives?
6. In what areas of your life are you still running from God? What will it take for you to stop?

MOVING FORWARD

Stop running and accept God's embrace. If you're not yet a Christian, surrender your life to Christ. If you are a Christian, surrender whatever area you're holding back from God fully over to him.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:8 (NLT)