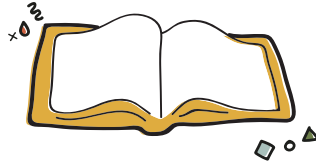




PART 5

BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

READ



THIS SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 5 MINUTES!

In part 4, we talked about one of The Church at RB's core values: Jesus is for everyone. In the next two parts, we want to talk about another one of our core values: Everyone belongs at the table. Just like last time, we want to go back to the book of Genesis.

In the beginning, God creates everything. The sun. The stars. The trees. In lyrical fashion, God declares about everything that He makes, "It is good." In Genesis 2, for the first time, God notices something that is not good.

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'"

GENESIS 2:18

Does man need God? Yes. But he needs someone else too. From the beginning, the human experience was to be a community experience. What you see in the Garden is Adam and Eve in cooperation and partnership. They are working together.

When Adam and Eve believe the enemy's lie that God is not for them, not only does their harmony with God get disrupted, but the harmony between each other gets disrupted. Immediately, they began pointing fingers at each other.

Immediately, they began to hide from each other.

"...so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."

GENESIS 3:7



They went from being fully known to having secrets. Instead of working together, they are now hiding from the other.

Do you know anyone who uses their job as a shield to hide behind? Have you ever been to a dinner and felt awkward and used your phone to look busy?

Instead of being known, our natural tendency is still to grab a fig leaf. We all do it. We get busy and we stop being known. Isolation and loneliness become normal. This is as old as the Garden of Eden itself.

At a deeper level, Adam and Eve were supposed to be working together. God gives them dominion over the Earth as their project. When we start isolating, we no longer want to have dominion with someone, we want to dominate someone. When we don't have community with each other, we start thinking of how to control each other. Isolation turns a stranger into an enemy.

Everything is connected. When we begin to take our broken relationship with God *seriously*, it forces us to begin taking our relationships with others *seriously*. The measuring stick of our spiritual health isn't how much we go to church or pray, it's how healthy our relationships are becoming with other people.

When we say that everyone belongs at the table, we are recognizing that we have a tendency to hide. We weren't created to hide. We were created to be known. We need a place, a table, where we can be known for who we are and be loved anyway.

Whether you have ever told it to anyone or not, you have a story. Whether you are a Christian or not, your story is worth hearing and telling.

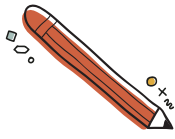
It can be only five sentences. It can be 1000 words. Either way, your story is worth sharing. When we share our story, it's the first step toward being known by others.

””

WE WEREN'T
CREATED TO HIDE.
WE WERE CREATED
TO BE KNOWN. WE
NEED A PLACE, A
TABLE, WHERE WE
CAN BE KNOWN FOR
WHO WE ARE AND
LOVED ANYWAY.

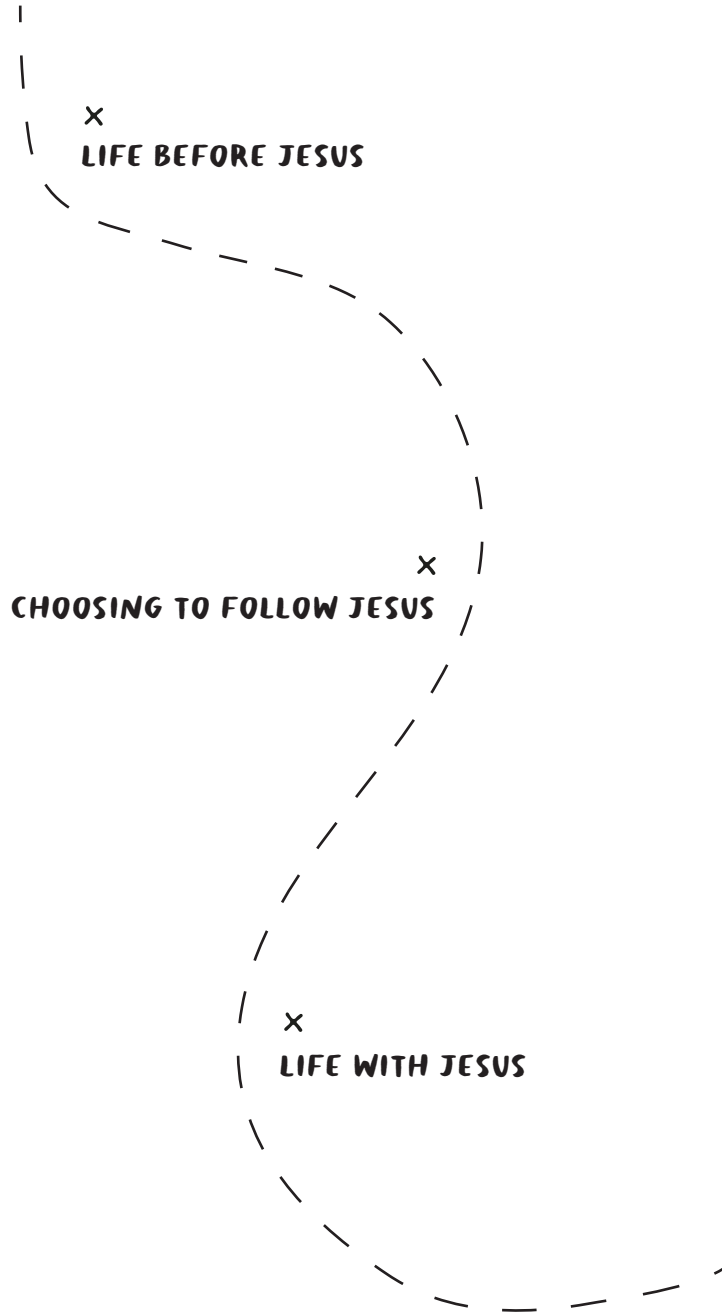
””

WRITE



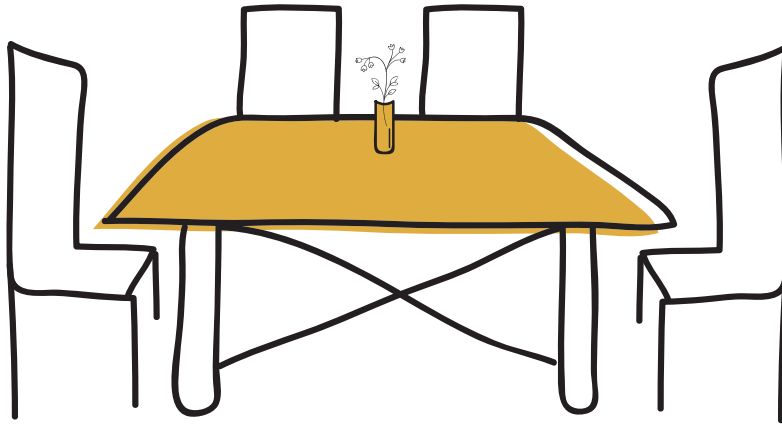
SHARE YOUR STORY

Sharing your story can be scary. We are all in different places in our walk with Jesus - and that's okay! Your story matters. Where are you in your story? Place an "x" on the timeline of where you're at right now.



BE KNOWN

You were created to be known.
Write in the names of who is around your table and who really
knows you in the blanks below.



WRITE HERE

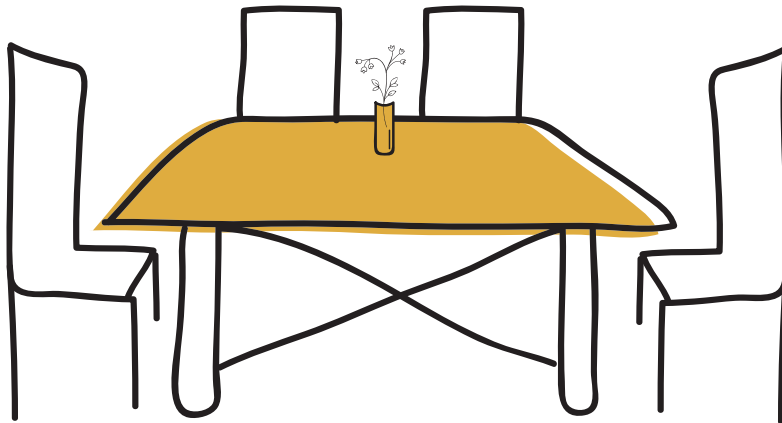
WRITE HERE

WRITE HERE

WRITE HERE

WRITE HERE

WRITE HERE



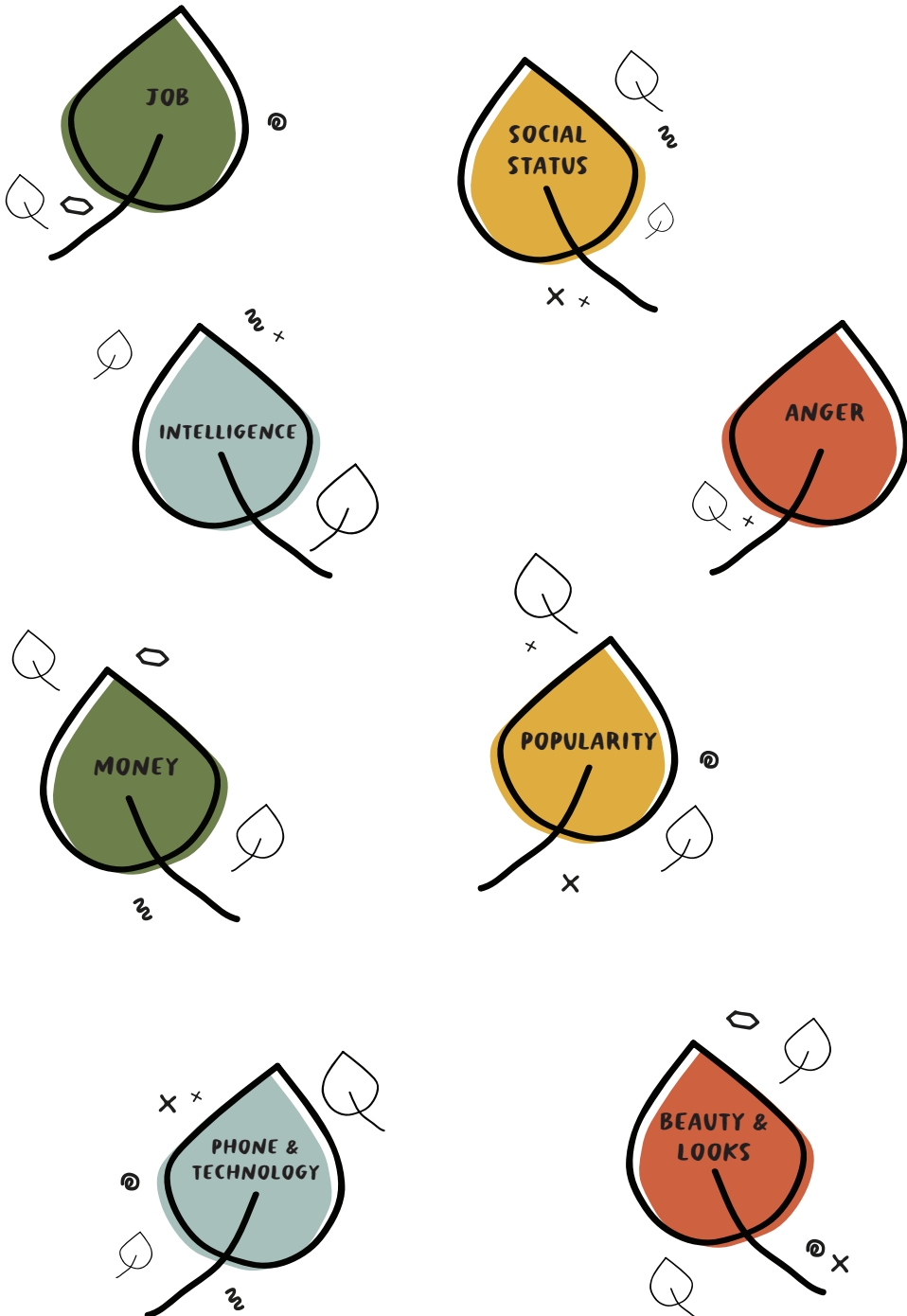
WRITE HERE

WRITE HERE

WRITE HERE

HIDING

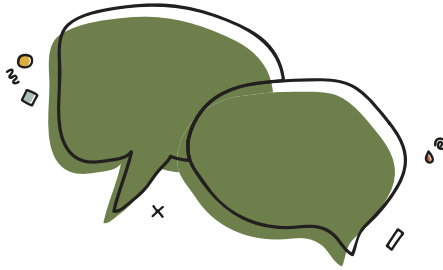
Adam and Eve began to hide from God and each other. What fig leaves do you hide behind? Circle the ones that apply to you.



YOUR STORY

The first step to sharing your story with others is being honest with yourself. Write a brief summary of your story below:

TALK



DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR TABLEGROUP.

WARM-UP Q:

What is one of your favorite stories? Book, movie, podcast?

- WATCH VIDEO -

1. There are three main components to our stories with Jesus. Before knowing Jesus, choosing to follow Jesus, and after meeting Jesus.
Where are you in your story?
2. Who is around your table that makes you feel known?
3. Share an example of a relationship in your life that is healthy. What are some of the characteristics or indicators of a healthy relationship?
4. We all use things to hide behind that disconnect us from relationships. Discuss as a group what fig leaves you circled on page 98. What leaves can you stop hiding behind?
5. Read the statement below and share examples of where you see this happening in your own experiences.
"When we start isolating, we no longer want to have dominion with someone, we want to dominate someone. When we don't have community with each other, we start thinking of how to control each other. Isolation turns a stranger into an enemy."

DO



THIS WEEK:

We were created to be known, but sometimes it's tempting to hide. Who is one person you can reach out to this week and begin to build a connection with?

(write their name here)



PUT SIMPLY

WHAT WE TAKE SERIOUSLY:

At The Church at RB, the measuring stick of our spiritual health isn't how much we go to church or pray. It's how healthy our relationships are becoming with other people.