



Week 1: “Where Are You?”

When we look at what Christianity teaches about the very first picture of humanity through Adam and Eve, we can see that there is something in our human nature that wants to hide. We hide from each other, from our emotions, and if we are honest, we hide from God. In this series we will look at God’s response to our hiding. And through the first two questions God asks we can discover who we really are, who God is, and how much we need Him.

1. In what ways did you feel the divisiveness of 2020 and did it make you want to hide your true feelings and opinions from others?
2. Why do you think people tend to hide from the emotions they feel?

Read Genesis 3:6-9

3. Discuss the idea that there is something in our human nature that likes to hide from God and others.
4. In what tone do you picture God asking the question, “Where are you?”

The tone of voice in which we read the questions in scripture will determine how we see God and His heart in the asking. This is true of questions in the Old Testament as well as questions Jesus asked in the New Testament. In Matthew 14:31 Jesus asks Peter, “*Why did you doubt?*” In Mark 5:30 He asked a crowd of people, “*Who touched my clothes?*” and in Matthew 8:26 He asked His disciples, “*Why do you doubt me?*” When we read the questions knowing the character of God we can see the grace behind the questions.

5. In what ways will we miss the character of God if we read these questions through the lens of how we might ask them?

Read these verses with your group: Nehemiah 9:17, Psalms 18:2, Psalms 116:5, Numbers 23:19, and Deuteronomy 31:8. Discuss how these verses show us the character of God.

6. Discuss the idea that God doesn't ask questions for His benefit but to help us look inward to see how we are really feeling and to show us who He is.

7. Does shame ever play a role in your tendency to hide? Why do you think it is hard to trust God's grace in those moments?

8. Is it hard for you to slow down and take time to inwardly reflect the emotions you are feeling and the questions that you have? What keeps you from taking this step?

9. How does the truth that God's response to the misstep of humanity was a question of grace help you understand how God views you in the middle of your own messy circumstances?

This week will you take the time to sit with God and allow Him to ask you the question, "*Where are you?*" Would you allow Him access to your heart and the emotions, questions, and doubts that are hiding there and allow Him to show you who He is.