Turning Point Bible Fellowship
Turning People Towards Christ
TURNINGPOINTBFC.ORG — 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Stop Running From Jesus
Personal or group-based guide for additional study

Key Takeaways

1. Running from God is as old as humanity itself. From the Garden of Eden forward, the instinct to hide from God has been part of the human condition. But hiding never solves the problem. Only the blood of Jesus covers what we try to conceal with our own efforts.

2. There are three reasons why running from Jesus is impossible and unnecessary.

- His character does not allow it. God is omniscient and omnipresent. There is no thought, fear, sin, or sorrow hidden from him.
- His love does not allow it. He is intimately aware of everything happening in your life and pursues you not to condemn you but to restore you.
- His justice does not allow it. He sees all things and judges all things, and his justice is always working toward your sanctification and his glory.

3. Three biblical examples show us what it looks like to stop running.

- David trusted that there was no place beyond God's reach or care.
- Gideon faced his battle with unlikely resources but unwavering faith in God's ability to deliver.
- Daniel never ran even when his circumstances were the result of others' disobedience. He knew God was with him.

4. Jesus came so that we might have life, not so that we might live in hiding. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus comes to give life abundantly. Running from Jesus means running toward less, not more.

5. The battle belongs to the Lord. When we try to fight our own battles, we make things worse. When we bring them to Jesus, he works them out for our good and his glory.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. When you first heard the title "Stop Running From Jesus," what was your initial reaction? Did anything in your own life come to mind immediately?

2. The sermon opened with Adam and Eve hiding in the Garden of Eden after they sinned. Why do you think hiding is often our first instinct when we feel shame or failure?

Going Deeper

3. The pastor described "fig leaf religion" as things like seeking approval from people, church membership, or water baptism alone as substitutes for a genuine relationship with Jesus. What are some modern-day fig leaves people use to avoid truly coming to God?

4. The sermon described three attributes of God that make running from him both impossible and unnecessary: his omniscience, his love, and his justice. Which of these three is most meaningful or most challenging to you personally, and why?

5. The pastor said, "There is no fear that you can suppress. No anxiety you can hide. No sin that you can pretend exists or feeling of loneliness, sadness, or frustration that may bury deep enough for him to not see." How does it make you feel to know that God already sees everything about you, and yet still calls you to come to him?

6. Gideon started with an army full of people who were ready to run. God reduced that army down to a small group of the faithful before delivering victory. What does that tell us about how God works when we stop running and trust him with our battles?

7. Daniel was carried into captivity because of other people's disobedience, yet he never ran from God. Have you ever experienced a difficult situation that was not entirely your fault but still required you to trust God rather than pull away from him? What did that look like?

8. The pastor shared a personal testimony about a season when he was running from Jesus, believing life looked better on the other side, only to find that he brought more problems on himself. Can you relate to that experience? What did running cost you, and what did returning to Jesus look like?

9. The sermon closed with this challenge: "If you feel like you have been running through distractions, avoidance, busyness, or fear, pause long enough and ask one honest question. What am I afraid of?" Take a moment as a group to sit with that question. What honest answers come up?

Reflection and Application

10. Isaiah 40:31 describes those who wait on the Lord as people who renew their strength, mount up like eagles, run without weariness, and walk without fainting. What is the difference between running from Jesus and running with Jesus? What does running with Jesus look like practically in your daily life?

11. The preacher said, "We have to let Jesus fight our battles, not us. Because we make it worse." Is there a specific situation in your life right now where you need to hand the battle over to Jesus instead of trying to manage it yourself? What would that surrender actually look like this week?

Practical Applications

This week, choose at least one of the following to put into practice:

- **Stop and be honest.** Set aside ten to fifteen minutes this week to sit quietly before God and answer the question the pastor posed: "What am I afraid of that is keeping me from running to Jesus?" Write down your honest answer and bring it to God in prayer.

- **Identify your fig leaves.** Think about the substitutes you may be using instead of genuinely seeking Jesus. Name them specifically and ask God to help you lay them down.

- **Bring one battle to Jesus.** Choose one area of your life where you have been carrying the weight yourself and make a deliberate decision to surrender it to God. Pray over it daily this week and resist the urge to take it back.

- **Memorize a truth that anchors you.** Romans 8:38-39 affirms that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Meditate on the meaning of those verses throughout the week as a reminder that his love is the reason you can stop running.

- **Reach out to someone who is running.** Think of someone in your life who may be avoiding God right now. Pray for them this week and consider whether God is calling you to reach out to them with a word of encouragement.

Closing Prayer Requests

- Gratitude that God sees us completely and loves us completely at the same time
- Courage to stop hiding and to run toward Jesus instead of away from him
- Strength to hand our battles over to God and trust his timing and his methods
- Anyone in the group or in your community who does not yet know Jesus and is still running