

In the Beginning: Naked and Unashamed

Genesis 2:25

“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

BIG IDEA: God designed marriage as a covenant where husband and wife can be fully known without condemnation. Sin makes us hide and blame; Christ's grace teaches us to be safe for one another.

1. God Designed Marriage for COVENANTAL Closeness (Genesis 2:18, 24–25)

- Intimacy is not simply being close enough to touch; it is being safe enough to tell the truth.
- Naked and unashamed = known without fear, masks, or self-protection.

“A healthy marriage is not one with nothing difficult to reveal, but one where both spouses feel safe enough to stop hiding.”

2. SIN Turned Nakedness into SHAME AND HIDING

- **Shame** → **Covering** → **Hiding** → **Fear** → **Blame**
- Modern “fig leaves”: busyness • anger • sarcasm • perfectionism • screens • silence • overwork • shutdown

My usual fig leaf: _____

3. Our Fig Leaves Become Love KILLERS (Genesis 3:11–13)

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| • Criticism: Attack instead of revealing hurt. | • Contempt: Stand above instead of facing insecurity. |
| • Defensiveness: Shift blame instead of owning my part. | • Stonewalling: Withdraw instead of risking vulnerability. |

“A healthy marriage is not built by having nothing to hide, but by becoming safe enough to be fully known.”

REMEMBER: Christ Breaks the Cycle of Condemnation. (Romans 8:1)

- **Conviction** calls us toward truth and God.
- **Condemnation** drives us toward hiding.

SEE • SAY • STAY

Practical application

A simple framework: SEE, SAY, STAY.

- 1. SEE:** Ask God to reveal the fig leaves you use when you feel exposed. Do you criticize, become sarcastic or defensive, withdraw, overwork, or avoid?
- 2. SAY:** Practice one honest sentence this week: “Something I am afraid to tell you is...” or “When this happens, I feel _____, and what I need is _____.”
- 3. STAY:** When your spouse shares vulnerably, stay emotionally present. Do not interrupt, fix immediately, minimize, bring up old failures, or store the confession as ammunition.

Assignment for couples:

Set aside twenty minutes this week. Pray first. Then each spouse answers: ‘What helps me feel emotionally safe with you?’ and ‘What makes me want to hide from you?’ Your assignment is not to debate the answer. It is to listen, thank your spouse for honesty, and pray together.”

Assignment for unmarried people, widows, and divorced:

“This message is not saying marriage saves us. Jesus saves us. But every one of us is called out of hiding and into the light of Christ, and every one of us can learn to become a safer person in our relationships.”

Complete these three sentences during the week:

1. “When I feel hurt, afraid, or exposed, my usual fig leaf is _____.”
2. “One way I may unintentionally make people feel unsafe is _____.”
3. “With God’s help, one way I will become a safer person this week is _____.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

Join A Small Group
Scan here to sign up



SUNDAY
6

Growth Track Starts
Scan here to sign up



SUNDAY
6

SMALL GROUP CYCLE BEGINS



Shoe boxes for OCC will be
available in the lobby on Sept. 13th.