

Reaching for

The Hem



How to Develop Spiritual Intimacy with God
Brought to you by School-Of-The-Spirit.org

**Lesson 5: Naked, Unashamed, and Unafraid:
Are You Hiding From God?**

Reflection Scripture

When you read this scripture , what is the first thing that comes to your mind?

*And they heard the sound of the Lord God
walking in the garden in the cool of the day,
and Adam and his wife hid themselves **from the presence of the Lord God**
among the trees of the garden.*

But the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, *Where are you?
He said, I heard the sound of You [walking] in the garden,
and **I was afraid because I was naked:**
and I hid myself.*
(Genesis 3:8-10 AMP)

Guided Notes:

Use these guided notes to guide you through this week's lesson.

Additional Notes

Are You Hiding From God?

- Our immediate answer to that question:
 - “No!”
 - Many of us are hiding from our Heavenly Father

Since The Beginning...

- The story of creation:
 - God creates the entire world.
 - Then, he masterfully designs the pinnacles of all creation : _____ and _____.
- Time passes in the garden.
 - Satan tempts Eve with the apple from the tree of the _____ of good and evil.
 - The two, Adam and Eve partake of the forbidden fruit, and something _____...

Picture It...

- Adam and Eve are at home in their garden.
 - They hear the footsteps of their God, Jehovah, coming to _____.
 - He wasn't running or stomping. Just walking on His way to visit His children right where they were.
- Did God _____ that Adam and Eve had eaten of the tree that He had told them to stay away from?

- Of Course He knew. He’s El Ro’l –The God Who _____ us!
- Yet, He didn’t turn His back on His kids and start stomping off in the opposite direction.
 - He _____ to them.
 - He _____ for them.
- What did God find?
 - They were hiding “from the _____ of the Lord God” (Genesis 3:8).
 - Hiding out of _____ that Abba, the one who had lovingly shaped them with His own hands, would see them _____.

Following Their Legacy?

- Do you ever _____ from God?
 - Most Christians do.
 - Like our parent’s Adam and Eve, we hide from the presence of the Lord out of:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Hiding is never a _____ decision.
 - We spend so much time wearing our “_____ Christian” mask for the rest of the world that we forget to take it off for the Lord.
 - We are used to being _____ and _____ for our imperfections.
 - Subconsciously, we are afraid that God will _____ us for who we really are...

Additional Notes

God is Not Like Man...

- With man, you're accepted based on your _____.
- In _____, your acceptance is not based on performance.
 - If that were the case, _____ of us could be accepted by God.
- Then what is God's love based on?
 - It's not based on _____ perfection
 - It's based on _____
- God is _____ (1John 4:8)
 - The word used here is Agape
 - It means _____ love
- God is _____ **love**
- That means that you don't have to _____
_____ your imperfections from Him.
 - It is His very nature to _____ you in spite of them.
 - His plan is to love you _____ of them.
- God's love and presence are _____ reaching out to you.
 - But, sometimes we stop _____ them.

Additional Notes

Why Do We Hide?

- There are many reasons Christians _____
_____ from Abba.

- _____ of your imperfections?
 - Do you feel _____ of God's presence because of mistakes?
 - When you make a mistake:
 - Do you run _____ Abba and repent?
 - Or do you run and hide out of _____?
- Burying your _____?
 - Are there certain issues that you don't want to _____, so you _____ they are not there?
 - Is there excruciating pain from your past that you try not to _____ about.
 - But you know in your heart it's _____?
- Struggling with your _____ or _____?
 - Are there parts of your _____ that you know are not pleasing to God, but you don't know how to deal with them?
 - Bouts of _____ or _____ that you never voice, so you think no one notices?
 - Problems with _____ that you don't act on, but are _____ in the back of your mind?
- Fighting off _____ and _____?
 - Are there _____ fears you have that you can't seem to get rid of?

Additional Notes

- _____ thoughts that linger in your mind and you can't seem to shake?
 - And yet you feel _____ for not being _____ enough to fight them off on your own.
- Are you the _____-_____ Christian?
 - When you are dealing with a challenge, do you immediately start trying to _____ it yourself without even thinking about taking it to God?
 - Do you even sometimes think that He would not want to be _____ with your problems?
 - Do you feel too _____ to take them to Him?
- Are you secretly _____ God?
 - Have you experienced a _____ in your life that you blamed God for.
 - Maybe you felt _____ for blaming Him and tried to stuff the feelings away.
 - But, the anger and resentment is still buried deep in your heart.
 - It's keeping you from really _____ the Lord to _____ you the way you once did.

Satan Wants You In Hiding!

- Convincing us to hide our pain instead of _____ it is a tool of the devil.
 - More than anything, he wants to keep you _____ from God.
 - Without God's presence in your life you are totally _____!

Satan Wants You In Hiding!

Additional Notes

- But, Satan knows that God has _____
_____ never to leave you or forsake you
(Hebrews 13:5).
 - His only workable strategy is to get you to do like
Adam and Eve.
- When we try to push painful issues from our
minds, we think we are really dealing with them.
 - Somehow, we have gotten the idea that carrying
around tons of _____ with a good attitude
makes us a good Christian.
 - God does not just want you to _____
your scars.
 - He want you to bring them to Him to be _____
_____.

The Key To All Relationships

- Any relationship that you ever build is always
based on _____.
 - Refuse to look yourself in the eye and come face
to face with what is really going on beneath the
surface?
 - You are ruining your relationship with
yourself.
 - Keep those same issues hidden from God?
 - Whether you realize it or not, you're keeping
Him at a _____.

Let God Cover You...

- Adam and Eve stood before the Lord:
 - Naked and _____
 - Ashamed, and _____

Additional Notes

- God did not leave them that way.
 - He _____ them.
 - “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”
- He will do the same for you.

God Will Call You Out

- Trying to cover your _____ scars doesn't make them go away.
 - _____ a place of brokenness is merely trying to hide it.
 - But you can't hide it from yourself.
 - You can't hide it from God.
- As you press in to grow more in God, He is going to make you _____ with those hidden places.
 - Just like He did with Adam and Eve, He will call you out of hiding too.
- Why?
 - Hidden scars will make you a spiritual _____.
 - They will stunt your _____ growth.
 - They will _____ what God can do in your life.

Let the Potter take what appears to be a mess of broken pieces, and mold you into His beautiful work of art!

What's On Your Heart....

Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think Adam and Eve hid from God that day in the garden? Why were they afraid? _____

2. What are some areas of yourself that you have tried to hide from the Lord? Why do you think you hid them? _____

3. In the creation story, we read that Adam and Eve are in the garden hiding from God. Even though God knows what they did and exactly where they are, instead of abandoning them or even approaching them in anger, He calls out to them. Why do you think that is significant? _____

4. Why do you think so many Christians choose to grin and bear their problems instead of taking them to the Lord? Why is it so painful to be honest about our inability to fix ourselves? _____

5. In this week's lesson, you read that "Any relationship that you ever build is always based on honesty." In your own words, explain what you think happens to a Christian's relationship with God when they keep things to themselves instead of taking them to Him and being honest about their problem. _____
