

Life Group Lesson

Soul Detox Week 7 • Week of February 27

Introduction

When was the last time you played Hide-and-Seek? Perhaps you remember the fun and exhilaration! When I was seven, we moved out to the country, where we spent a couple of summers at Aunt Ruby's. She taught us how to play *Hoopie-Hide*, which was a turbo-charged version of hide-and-seek. What made *Hoopie-Hide* unique was that we had a home base. Our home base was a big oak tree in Aunt Ruby's front yard. The 'seeker' counted while everyone else scurried off to the best hiding spots. With a shout: "Ready or Not, Here I come" the hunt was on! Utter silence was key. And once you were found, it became a race to see who could run back to home base faster – the 'hider' or the 'seeker'. If the 'hider' (now found) got back to home base faster, you'd shout "HOME!" If the 'seeker' outran the 'hider' and got to the tree faster, they would shout: "1-2-3 on Julie!" ... or whoever. It was great fun.

As adults, we still play hide-and-seek but it is no longer great fun. In fact, it can be miserable. Hiding over guilt and shame mirrors Adam and Eve after they ate of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Their choice to listen to the serpent and eat the fruit, robbed them of their innocence and severed their friendship with God. "At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. Then the LORD called to the man, "Where are you?" He replied, "I heard you walking the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked. Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked... (Genesis 3:7-11a). What voice are you listening to today?

There is no neutral ground, no place to hide when it comes to honestly answering the question: "Who is Jesus Christ to me?" – a question we all must answer. Are you ready to stand before God? Under the first covenant, God provided forgiveness for His people through the innocent blood of an unblemished lamb, or other acceptable animal. On the Day of Atonement, in addition to the proper blood sacrifice, Aaron would lay his hands on the head of a little goat (called the scapegoat) and confess over it the wickedness, rebellion, and sin of all the Hebrews. Someone specially chosen would then drive the little goat into the wilderness, to a desolate place in order to carry away their sin (see Leviticus 16:20-22).

That was a picture of what Christ would do for all humanity. He was specially chosen *by God* for our sin to be transferred to Him and carried away through His death on the cross (see Hebrews 13:12-13, 1 Peter 2:21-25).

"For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was only a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf... once for all time, He has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by His own death as a sacrifice. And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for Him" (Hebrews 9:24, 26b-28). One day, there will be no more hiding. Like the father in the story that Jesus told about the Prodigal son, your Heavenly Father is looking for you—eagerly waiting for you to come home (Luke 15:11-24).

Background

At times, the shame of sin and the guilt over past mistakes can cause us to want to cover up and hide. Other times, we are tempted to trivialize our sin, explain it away, ignore it, or justify it. Hiding away in a place called pride is dangerous, because resisting the Holy Spirit's conviction is refusing the only One who can cleanse our soul from deadly toxins. "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10). Deep down we all want to be found. No other person, no other power is strong enough to find us, rescue us from the pit of despair, and prepare us to stand before God. Only Jesus. He came preaching the Kingdom of God and yet many of the religious leaders refused to accept His message. They preferred to remain in their hiding places by refusing to admit that they too were broken. And worse, in an effort to expose Jesus as a fraud, they instead exposed their own darkness as they attributed the Lord's power to heal people to Satan 'the prince of demons' (Matthew 12:24).

Reading the Text

Read Matthew 12:22-37

Deeper Application

(for discussion purposes, what 1-2 words stand out *to you* as you hear the Scripture read aloud)

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

2. What are you going to do about it?

3. How can we help you?

Close in a Time of Prayer

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

One Year Bible Readings

Feb. 28: Leviticus 22:17-23:44, Mark 9:30-10:12, Psalm 44:1-8, Proverbs 10:19

Mar. 1: Leviticus 24:1-25:46, Mark 10:13-31, Psalm 44:9-26, Proverbs 10:20-21

Mar. 2: Leviticus 25:47-27:13, Mark 10:32-52, Psalm 45:1-17, Proverbs 10:22

Mar. 3: Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54, Mark 11:1-26, Psalm 46:1-11, Proverbs 10:23

Mar. 4: Numbers 2:1-3:51, Mark 11:27-12:17, Psalm 47:1-9, Proverbs 10:24-25

Mar. 5: Numbers 4:1-5:31, Mark 12:18-37, Psalm 48:1-14, Proverbs 10:26

Mar. 6: Numbers 6:1-7:89, Mark 12:38-13:13, Psalm 49:1-20, Proverbs 10:27-28



Text: Matthew 6: 22-37, 46-50

PLAIN TRUTH:

Let's stop _____, _____ our souls
and claim our _____.

On this outline write down your weeds:

1) _____ I'll stop hiding from God—too busy,

2) _____ I commit to a Soul Detox & De-weed.

a) too busy b) greed, c) lust, d) vanity, hurts, anger,

_____, _____,
_____.

3) _____ Today I claim my citizenship as a child of God &
King Jesus our Lord.

February 26 & 27, 2022