

ADVENT · THE FALL

# Where Are You?

## Genesis 3:1–15

### The Big Idea

Sin turned the lights out on God's good world, and we've been hiding ever since. But God came looking for us, and in the darkest moment he promised a Rescuer.

### Key Themes

| | |
|---|---|
| The Lie<br>Did God Really Say? | The Hiding<br>Shame and Fear |
| The Search<br>"Where Are You?" | The Promise<br>A Coming Rescuer |

### SUNDAY · Scripture & Devotion

#### Genesis 3:1–15

If you've ever played hide-and-seek with a toddler, you know the move. They stand in the middle of the room, cover their eyes, and believe that if they can't see you, you can't see them. It's adorable at age two. At thirty-two, it's

how most of us handle God. Genesis 3 is where the hiding started.

## The Lie: "Did God Actually Say?" (Genesis 3:1–6)

The serpent's first words were a question: "Did God actually say…?" The lie wasn't really about fruit. It was about God: that he's holding out on you, and you'd be better off running your own life. Every sin since starts with that whisper. Adam and Eve believed it, took, and ate, and the light of a perfect relationship with God went dark.

## The Hiding: Shame and Fear (Genesis 3:7–10)

Their eyes were opened, and the first thing they did was cover up with fig leaves and hide among the trees. "I was afraid… and I hid myself." We still do it. We hide behind busyness, a curated feed, a quick "I'm fine," or blaming someone else (Genesis 3:12–13). Hiding is what darkness does to us.

## The Search: "Where Are You?" (Genesis 3:9)

God didn't ask because he didn't know. He asked because he wanted them to come out. The first question God asks in the Bible isn't "What did you do?" but "Where are you?" Before the judgment came, God came looking. Then he

made them clothes from animal skins (Genesis 3:21). Something had to die to cover their shame. That's the Christmas story in seed form: "the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

## The Promise: A Rescuer Is Coming (Genesis 3:15)

Right in the middle of the curse, God makes a promise. A son of the woman would crush the serpent's head, though his own heel would be struck. Many call it the first gospel. Thousands of years later, that son was born in Bethlehem. On the cross the serpent struck his heel; at the empty tomb, Jesus crushed the serpent's head. Christmas is God keeping his first promise.

So whatever you've been hiding, here is your invitation this week:

*You don't have to hide. God came looking for you.*

### Talk About It

- What do people today hide behind when they feel ashamed? What do you tend to hide behind?
- Why do you think God asked "Where are you?" instead of "What did you do?"

- Genesis 3:15 promised a Rescuer thousands of years before Jesus. What does that tell you about how God keeps his word?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

**Option 1: Fig Leaf Conversation**

Give everyone a few sticky notes. Each person writes down “fig leaves” people hide behind: a phone, sarcasm, staying busy, perfectionism, people-pleasing. Read Genesis 3:7–10, then talk honestly about which ones show up most in your family and why. Parents go first. Finish by reading Genesis 3:21 and tearing the notes up together as a picture of God covering what we try to hide.

**Option 2: Trace the Promise**

Spend an evening following Genesis 3:15 through the Bible: Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6, Galatians 4:4–5, and Romans 16:20. Let teens and older kids each lead a reading and explain in one sentence how it connects. Build a simple timeline on poster paper and hang it near your tree. Then ask: God kept this promise for thousands of years. Which of his promises do you need to trust this week?

Sin turned the lights out, and we’ve been hiding ever since. But God came looking, and at Christmas he came all the way to us.

**THIS WEEK'S LIGHT STEP:** Reach out to the person you named in Week 1 and personally invite them to Christmas Eve on December 24. A lot of people are waiting for someone to come looking for them.



# Daily Reflections

## MONDAY · Did God Really Say?

*Read Genesis* 3:1–6. The serpent didn't start with a temptation. He started with a question that made God look stingy. Sin still works that way: it whispers that God is holding out on you.

> **Reflect**
>
> Where are you most tempted to believe God is holding out on you? What lie sits underneath that, and what is actually true about God?

## TUESDAY · Fig Leaves

*Read Genesis* 3:7–8. Adam and Eve's first move after sin was to cover up. Our fig leaves look different: staying busy, looking put-together, keeping people at arm's length.

> **Reflect**
>
> What is your go-to fig leaf? What would it cost you, and what might you gain, to let one trusted person see what's behind it this week?

## WEDNESDAY · The Blame Game

*Read Genesis* 3:11–13. Adam blamed Eve, and even God for giving her to him. Eve blamed the serpent. Nobody said, "I did it."

> **Reflect**
> Where are you blaming someone else for something you need to own? What would it look like to say "I was wrong," to God and to that person?

## THURSDAY · Where Are You?

*Read Genesis* 3:9 *and Luke* 19:10. God walked toward the people who were hiding from him. Jesus said he came "to seek and to save the lost."

> **Reflect**
> Honestly, where are you with God right now: close, distant, hiding, or searching? What would it look like to answer him today?

## FRIDAY · Clothed by God

*Read Genesis* 3:21 *and Romans* 3:23–24. Fig leaves couldn't cover their shame, so God made clothes from animal skins. Something had to die. It pointed to Jesus, who died so we could be covered by his grace.

### Reflect

Are you still trying to cover your own failures, or have you let Jesus cover you? What would change if you believed you're fully covered?

**Family prayer:** "*God, thank you that you came looking for us when we were hiding. Thank you for sending Jesus to crush the darkness and cover our shame. Help us come out of hiding and bring others with us. Amen.*"

