



BETTER THAN OKAY

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April 19, 2026

GENESIS 3:8-10

SUNDAY REFRESHER

There's something almost childlike about the way we hide. Not clever, not sophisticated - just hands over our eyes, hoping that if we can't see, we won't be seen. And yet, from the very beginning, Scripture exposes the pattern: I heard You... I was afraid... I hid. Not because God moved away, but because we did. The question that echoes through the garden is not investigative - it's relational. "Where are you?" Not to expose, but to invite. Not to shame, but to restore.

And then Jesus tells a story that feels strangely familiar. A son who runs, hides, scripts his return... and a Father who interrupts the whole performance by running first. Before the apology. Before the cleanup. Before the worthiness. The thread between Eden and the prodigal road is unmistakable: God moves toward what we hide. And somewhere between our fear and His pursuit, we're faced with the question - how long will we keep pretending we're "okay"? Because healing doesn't begin in hiding. It begins in being seen.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*

QUESTIONS

- *Where in your life are you most tempted to say “I’m fine” when you know you’re not - and what are you actually hiding beneath that?*
- *When you hear God ask, “Where are you?” - does it feel like pressure or invitation? Why?*
- *What would it look like this week to stop rehearsing your responses and start revealing what’s really going on in your heart?*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Luke 15:17-20 | John 10:10-14 | 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

CONCLUSION

We spend so much of our lives managing the version of ourselves we think is acceptable - curating, filtering, polishing. But God has never asked for the edited version. He has always moved toward the real one. The afraid one. The exposed one. The one standing in the middle of the room, hands over their face, hoping not to be noticed. And still, He asks - gently, consistently, relentlessly - “Where are you?”

And maybe that’s the turning point. Not when everything is fixed, but when everything is finally honest. When the blanket comes off. When the script gets dropped. When we stop trying to be “better than okay” on our own and instead step into the light of being fully known. Because the same God who walked in the garden... is the same Father who runs down the road. And what you’ll find when you stop hiding isn’t rejection - it’s embrace.

Knowing that life transformation happens best through intentional, meaningful relationships, don’t let this week’s sermon remain as mere information. In the next few days, look for ways to teach, challenge, encourage and/or pray about what you’re discovering!

