

## ***“Hide And Seek”***

*You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Psalm 32:7*

### **Getting on the Same Page**

This Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we are going to have a stand-alone message. We are going to talk about hiding.

We are masters of disguise; known for hiding. We know something is deeply wrong with us. And we believe if people really found out about us, they would reject us. So, we hide. We hide our sin and brokenness from others. We have masks that we wear depending on the occasion. We even try to hide from God, although, if he's really God, he knows everything about us.

God is good. He loves us. He wants us to come out of hiding and be honest with him about our sin. He knows our sin is damaging to us, and the only remedy is to confess it to him.

In Psalm 32, we see a powerful thing happening: The author tries to hide his sin and is miserable. So, he confesses it to God. And God forgives him. And for the first time in a while, he has a clear conscience and feels so much better. Now, in verse 7, instead of the author hiding his sin FROM God, he now is hiding IN God. He takes refuge and comfort in God's presence. This makes all the difference. If we can learn how to seek God out instead of hiding in shame and fear, our healing/growth will know no bounds.

When we cover our sin, God tries to uncover it. When we uncover our sin, God covers it. On the cross, Jesus was uncovered; laid bare on the cross for us, so that by Jesus we can know we are covered.

### **Discussion Questions**

#### ***Getting Started***

- Read Psalm 32 and Romans 4:4-8. What stands out to you?
- Discuss a time when you hid something from someone because you were ashamed.

#### ***Study***

- Respond: Either we will attempt to cover our sins ourselves, or we will let God cover our sins.
- Discuss the following about shame: “Shame begets hiding. We hide from ourselves and others to prevent further intensification of the emotions we feel or have felt. But the very act of turning away, while temporarily protecting and relieving us from our feeling and the gaze of another, ironically reinforces the very shame we are attempting to avoid.”
- Respond: “God's forgiveness begins where blame-shifting ends. Only when we own our sin as ours, not justifying it or covering it up, can God begin to deal with it.”

- Discuss the following about sin and salvation: “The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man.”
- Respond: When we cover our sin, God uncovers it. When we uncover our sin, God covers it.
- React to the following quote: “Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is an illusion.”
- Respond to the Gospel: Jesus died a terrible, slow death through exposure. He was stripped, uncovered, and exposed to the elements. Jesus was uncovered so that, in Christ, we can be covered.

### *Apply*

- Read the following together and make plans to re-read it throughout the week:

*Jesus, You're the only one who gets to tell me who I am. You're the only one who gets to declare my identity. Yes, I'm a sinner. Yes, I betrayed you and those I love. Yes, I did what I said I wouldn't do. Yes, I'm still selfish and self-centered, and I repent of all of that. Please forgive me. Please wash me and cleanse me. I desperately desire to return to a place of intimacy and closeness with you. My problem is that shame keeps whispering in my ear telling me I'm not worthy.*

*And the truth is, absent you, I'm not. But your death—your blood—declares me, while still a sinner; worthy. I can't earn it and don't deserve it, but I come before your throne of grace, asking to receive your grace and mercy because I believe there is more grace in you than sin in me. In the name of Jesus, by and because and through the blood of Jesus, I tell shame to leave me now. Get out of me. You can't live rent free any longer.*