



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Where Are You?**

**Date: September 1, 2024**

**Scripture Text: Genesis 3:6-9**

**Notes:**

As God set Adam and Eve up in the garden of Eden, He gave them everything they needed. He also placed, in the middle of the garden, a tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He prohibited them from eating of that tree. The consequence if they were to disobey Him was death ([Gen. 2:15-17](#)). Obedience is a choice. No one can say they had to sin. We can choose obedience to God or to pursue our own desires, sin. Adam and Eve had that choice and so do we. When God found Adam and Eve after they chose to disobey Him, He called out “Where are you?”. God knew where they were, both physically and spiritually, although His focus was on the spiritual. He asked for their own benefit. He wanted them to discern where they were in their relationship with Him. Similarly, He may ask us today, for the same reason, “Where are you?”.

**I. Where Are You: How did you get here? ([Genesis 3:6](#))**

Sin begins with our desires ([James 1:14-15](#)). Adam and Eve had all they needed. God made sure of that. We have all we need in Jesus. It’s when our personal desires distract us from God and we grow discontent with God that we feel we need something more. This is where Adam and Eve found themselves. Eve started focusing on what God had prohibited instead of God and all He had provided. This paved the way for them to sin. They delighted more in what the fruit could be for them than what God could be for them.

- What are things Eve did that made sinning easier?
- What might she have done to help her not sin?
- What are things we may do that can make sinning easier?
- What are ways we can be better equipped not to sin?
- How can we keep Jesus front and center in all aspect of our life?

**II. Where Are You: What are you going to do? ([Genesis 3:7-9](#))**

**A. Try to Fix Ourselves: We can’t cover up sin ([Gen. 3:7](#))**

Many times, when we sin, we may try to “fix” things ourselves, mostly to avoid the consequences of our sin. Adam and Eve attempted this. Once they had eaten the fruit, instead of obtaining godly knowledge, as Satan had promised ([Gen. 3:5](#)), it brought on a sense of inadequacy, fear and shame. They tried to literally cover up by using fig leaves. Like our attempts to cover up our sin, this was wholly insufficient.



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### **Notes:**

- What do you think Adam and Eve’s motivation was for making coverings from fig leaves? What changed?
- What are ways we may try to cover up our sins today?
- Why are attempts to cover up our sin not lasting?

Let’s consider the only way our sins can be addressed...

B. Trust God: God rescues us from sin ([Gen. 3:8-9](#))

“God took the initiative in reaching out to sinful humanity. This pattern—humanity sinning, then God seeking out sinners—becomes the primary theme of the rest of the Bible. Its ultimate expression is found in Jesus Christ, who came to seek and to save people alienated from God because of their sin ([Luke 19:10](#)); in him God once again walked on the earth in search of sinners. The all-knowing God asked Adam, Where are you? for Adam’s benefit, to encourage Adam to face his sin.” (Blum)

- Read [Gen. 3:21](#). How was God’s provision sufficient compared to how Adam and Eve tried providing for themselves ([Gen. 3:7](#))?
- How is God’s provision for us today sufficient than anything we can do?
- Describe what it means to you that God pursues us, even when we are pursuing our own desires.
- How would you describe ‘where you are’ in your relationship with God?
  - How can that relationship grow deeper and stronger?

“Man may seek to hide from God, but the relentless “Hound of Heaven” goes after him. God calls to Adam and asks the first question attributed to God in the Bible: “Where are you?” ([Gen. 3:9](#)). Whenever God asks a question, it is *not* to gain information. God knew exactly where Adam was. He asked the question to make Adam think. If you had a friend coming to your house for the first time and he called and said that he was lost, you would ask, “Where are you?” If he can tell you where he is, you can tell him how to get to your house. You’ve got to know where you are before you can receive directions to where you need to be.” (Steven Cole)