

Hide and Seek

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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Hide & Seek is a popular game among children. The first game is in the Book of Genesis - when Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, they realized their nakedness and hid from God. However, even today, as adults, we are still playing Hide and Seek with God, when we live our lives separated from Him, instead of seeking Him.

1) There are many ways that people hide:

- Hiding behind wealth or fame.
- Hiding behind hypocrisy (Mt 23:27).
- Hiding sin. We can not hide our sins, the Lord knows everything (2Sam 11).
- Hiding from God's call (Is 6:8). God sees us, wherever we are.
- Hiding from God when we are discouraged. All the more we should seek and find Him when we are feeling low.
- David was hidden but was the chosen one (1 Sam 16:11).
- Moses was hidden in a little boat on the Nile river, to save him (Ex 2:1-9).
- Hiding our talent (Mt 25:18).
- Hiding our money (Gal 6:6).
- We hide ourselves. "Can anyone hide in secret places? Do I not fill heaven and earth" (Jer 23:24). We need to come out of confinement. God wants to expose our sins (Ps 32:1-4), so He can forgive them.

2) What did Jonah, the "running prophet", do when God called him to preach in Nineveh? (Jonah 1:1-3). What do we do when God calls?

- When God calls, we are called to obey. It is hard to obey God at all costs (our career, wealth). But, God will find us, and restore us.
- God has a plan for each one of us. We need to obey to discover the wonderful plan of God (Jer 29:11). Our missions may not be easy or lucrative. But they are always right.
- We may be running away from God in many ways, not just geographically as Jonah did.

3) Why did Jonah run? Why do we run from God?

- a) Fear of the task or the truth.

- b) Fear of the difficulty. Regardless of how difficult our life is today, we should not run away. God is the only one who can solve our problems.
- c) Fear of danger. We have to forget our comfort zones & face danger. God is always with us.
- d) Fear of a disgusting task. God may direct us to get involved when we would rather not. Even when we can not see Him, God is watching us.

4) Jonah's downfall. What happens when we run?

- Jonah went to the wrong direction.
 - Where do we go when we have problems? If we are choosing our ways, we are going in the wrong direction (Is 55:9). We must consult God on all our plans (Ps 119:105).
- Jonah went down, not up.
 - Disobedience in Christian life leads us to become insensitive to our wrongdoings, then go down in sin (Ps 139).
- He arrived at the wrong destination.
 - When God is calling and we hide from Him, we will land at a destination away from God; sooner or later, we will get caught.
- Because of the disobedience of Jonah, many in the ship were also affected by the storm.
 - When we separate from God, He will send a storm to bring us back. He will risk the lives of others, including our family. This is a wake-up call to bring us back to God's ways.
- Jonah ran and hid, but God did not let him go.
- Jonah ran but God did not give up on him.

What is life without God?

Let us run into the arms of our heavenly Father. When we hide from Him, He seeks and finds us. He is calling us to change our behavior. He is calling us to be more public in our faith, to be the light of the world. Let us not hide our faith.

Reflection:

How will you answer God's calls? Are these calls to forgive and ask forgiveness; to prayer time; to have a relationship with Jesus; or to a specific ministry? Stop hiding and running, and answer His call.

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