



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 7

We studied the three kinds of hiddenness found in the Bible. (1) God sometimes appears to be hiding from us. (2) We sometimes try to hide from God. (3) We are invited to hide in Jesus. These themes are present throughout the Bible, but what we discovered is that God ultimately wants us to hide ourselves in Him and receive the power and protection only He can provide. Spend this week exploring your own hiddenness. Are you hiding from God or hiding in Jesus?

Peace of Christ,  
Dr. Mark Youngman  
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: EXODUS 33.12-16

*Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'<sup>13</sup> If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."*

<sup>14</sup> *The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

<sup>15</sup> *Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.<sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"*

- Sometimes we hide in plain sight. Moses was seeking information—he wanted to know what God knew. In a very real sense, he was hiding from himself as the called and equipped leader of the exodus from Egypt and the journey of God's people to the Promised Land. God responded in a firm but kind way. Moses hadn't asked for rest, but God knew what he needed. **Do you find it difficult to be led by God when you don't have all of the information about the journey?**

- *God, forgive me when I hide from my true position before you. You are faithful to keep your promises and you promise to go with me wherever you lead me. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: EXODUS 33.17-23**

*And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."*

<sup>18</sup> *Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."*

<sup>19</sup> *And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."*

<sup>21</sup> *Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."*

- We can probably understand Moses' desire to see God's glory. He was having another one of those moments of deep connection and intimate conversation with God. He wanted more of it, and he was seeking confidence and assurance for the rest of the journey that God had set him on. But God knew that it would be too much for him at this stage in his life. One could imagine that Moses eventually did see all of God's glory after his death on the edge of the Promised Land. **Have you ever reflected on events in your own life and become aware that God had protected you from knowing or seeing too much?**
- *God, I do long to see your glory. It is perfectly reflected in Jesus, and so may I look to him today. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: GENESIS 3.6-10**

*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

<sup>8</sup> *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

<sup>10</sup> *He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

- It may seem that the Bible is one long game of hide and seek between God and God's creation. This idea was introduced here in Genesis 3. When sin entered into the picture, we thought we could (and should) hide from God. When we find ourselves trying to hide from God, it is always about shame. We are ashamed of our state of fallenness. Yet in Jesus, our shame is removed and we are called to live our life for God out in the open. **Are there parts of your life that you might be trying to hide from God?**
- *Jesus, I surrender to the gift of your forgiveness. Help me to lay down my shame and hide only in you. Amen.*

## THURSDAY: PSALM 32.7-8

*You are my hiding place;*

*you protect me from trouble.*

*You surround me with songs of victory.*

*The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.*

*I will advise you and watch over you."*

- As we've been singing songs of our faith all summer at Providence, we have experienced the comfort and assurance they bring. Here in Psalm 32, David claimed that out of all of the places he tried to hide, God was the only hiding place that offered true protection and led to songs of victory. The doorway to the best path for our lives is hiddenness in God. **When have you felt the protection of God? When have you felt surrounded by songs of victory? Where do you look for that to be true today?**
- *God, I look to you to be my hiding place. Protect me from trouble and lift me up with your songs of victory. Amen.*

## FRIDAY: PSALM 5.11-12

*let all who take refuge in you be glad;*

*let them ever sing for joy.*

*Spread your protection over them,*

*that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*

<sup>12</sup> *Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;*

*you surround them with your favor as with a shield.*

- *On Sunday, I shared the story of our mission team's trip to Haiti five years ago. We were unable to return home for several days because of violent protests taking place between us and the capital city and its airport. Although we were trapped in a visually beautiful place, we were unable to drive safely to meet our plane and return home. We prayed this Psalm and found ourselves taking refuge in God and singing for joy. **What situations have led (forced?) you to take refuge in God? How out-of-your-control do things need to be before you are able to do that?***
- *God, you have spread your protection over me before. Today I consider those who are in a scary, unsafe place. Surround them with your favor. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: GALATIANS 2.20

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

- Paul was a lot like Moses in his pursuit of knowledge. It's humbling to come face to face with Jesus the way Paul did. It changed his life and led him to hide his life in Jesus'. **How does this invitation sound to you? What would be different in your daily life if Jesus was fully living in you and you in him?**
- *Jesus, I give you my life. Come and live in me so that others see only you when they look at me. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read through (or listen to) the words of the hymn [Rock of Ages](#).

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

- What are the core teachings of this hymn?
- What does it tell us about ourselves?
- What does it tell us about God?
- Underline a phrase that particularly stands out to you today. How can you carry it with you as the song of your heart in the days to come?