



## MESSAGE GROUPS - GUEST SPEAKER: KENNETH WAGNER - JUNE 23

### LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

Our culture tells us to hide our bad and messy parts from others, but God isn't afraid of or surprised by our imperfections and weaknesses. For us to fully walk in God's glory, we have to be our most authentic selves with Him. When we are real with God, His power is freed up to transform our lives and communities in real and powerful ways.

### ICEBREAKER:

Who are you the most authentic with in your life? What makes it easy to be real with them?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read **Genesis 3:1 and 3:8-11** aloud. Focus on the question, "Did God really say?" We know the words God has spoken over us and declared for us are true, but sometimes words of the enemy seem louder.

- **Q:** *What are some words the enemy has convinced you to believe about yourself or about God? What do you think God would say to these doubts and lies?*

When Adam and Eve committed the first sin, their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked. Then, they made coverings for themselves and hid from God. We often act in the same way and try to compensate for our sin through changes in our behavior and habits.

- **Q:** *Although God wants our most authentic selves, we often try to cover our sin and hide ourselves from God. What are ways we try to cover our sin and hide from God?*
- **Q:** *Why do you think we try to hide from God who already knows everything about us? What would look different in your life if you weren't afraid to be fully real and authentic?*

God asks Adam, "Who told you that you were naked?". When we believe the lies of the enemy, we forget who God created us to be. But only God – our creator and Father – has the authority to define us, not people or past events/trauma.

- **Q:** *When we surrender the lies and pain of our past to God, he offers us a new start and healing. Read aloud **Luke 15: 21-24**. What does the closing verse of the prodigal son story say to you about God's heart to renew us after our pain and failure?*

## CLOSE

Adam was naked because he sinned; so he hid from God. Try filling in these blanks for yourself:

*I was \_\_\_\_\_ because I \_\_\_\_\_; so I hid.* Although we sin and events happen outside of our control, God still desires to know us. He doesn't make mistakes and He has made us on purpose, with a purpose, for a purpose. **Leaders:** *Allow additional time for your group to seek individual or group prayer over events, traumas, or lies that have tried to define them.*

