

# Gathering Guide

for Communities and Friends

*Adam and the Stranger*

*The God who turns up only to drive us away.*

4/28/2019

## Where We Are In The Bible

This week we are excited to begin our new sermon series *God Is Stranger* by Krish Kandiah. What does it look like when God shows up out of the blue unannounced, unexpected and often unrecognized? We begin by looking at the first 3 chapters of Genesis and especially Chapter 3, where the perfect world God created seems to be crumbling before His very eyes. In the message we will be focusing on God's response to the sin of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:14-24.

## Lean In

- Genesis Chapter 3 is generally referred to as the "Fall of Man." What did man fall from? Make a list of all the evidence of the fall we see in the world around us. How does it affect you personally?
- After Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, God shows up in Genesis 3:8. The book *God Is Stranger* centers on the times in our lives where God shows up. Can you share a time or two in your life where God showed up? What happened and how did you know it was God? Did you recognize Him immediately or a bit later?
- As God approaches we see Adam and Eve hiding from Him (Gen. 3:8). Why were they hiding from God and what did they have to fear? Do people today try to hide from God? Do you? In what ways? For what reasons?

## The Big Idea

Something happened that disrupted our relationship with God and it all began way back in Eden. The perfect world God created unraveled quickly and severely as sin corrupted mankind and God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden and from access to the Tree of Life. The rest of the Bible records God's steps to restore this broken relationship. In the meantime, we live in a world where we are in the words of Kandiah, "like Adam and Eve, both drawn to God and repelled by Him."

## Where To?

- Kandiah writes (page 19) "*In some respects, it is no surprise that we struggle with the idea of friendship with God. His invisibility and intangibility are always going to be difficult for us, especially compared with the immediate presence of people around us.*" What does it mean to be a Friend of Jesus? How difficult has it been for you to be a "Friend of Jesus"? Was John 15:15 for just the disciples or for us too? What would you cite to support your answer?
- In the message, Pastor Steve quoted Kandiah (page 34) "*Our relationship with God will always be a tension between knowing his presence and feeling his distance.*" Focus on the words "knowing" and "feeling" - why do you think Kandiah chose those specific words? Why do you think God sometimes feels distant? How might you answer that after reading James 4:8?
- All is not lost in this sad portion of the Bible. Before driving Adam and Eve from the garden we see God's provision by clothing them with skins from animals. Thus, we see the first shedding of blood as a function of divine mercy. How does this act along with the promise of God in Genesis 3:15 give us hope that God is at work restoring our broken relationship with Him? What is our responsibility in reconciling with God?

## Prayer Focus

Father, you are a great and powerful God! You created the world from nothing and mankind in your image. We praise you for your love, grace, and mercy that reaches out to us in our brokenness and sinfulness. Draw close to us Lord as we seek to draw closer to you. Bring us once more into your holy presence and reveal to us your glory. Amen.

