

**MASQUERADE—1  
HIDING FROM GOD**

*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.  
Genesis 2:24*

**no shame: *buwsh* (boosh); to be ashamed; to be disappointed, to be confused, to become dry.**

*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. Genesis 3:7*

**hypocrite: *hupokrites* (hoop-ok-ree-tace'); an actor playing a role, someone wearing a mask to misrepresent reality.**

**SATAN'S SHAME GAME**

- You experience something deeply painful or sinful.
- You connect what happened with who you are.
- You believe the only way to be safe is to hide.

*8 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. Genesis 3:8*

*9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." Genesis 3:9-10*

**WHERE ARE YOU WITH GOD?**

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. Genesis 3:21*

## TALK IT OVER

- What kind of mask do you hide behind the most? Happy? Successful? Holy? Or something else?
- What's something that happened that you connected to who you are? After you share it, say out loud that you recognize that it's a lie.
- Where are you with God? Talk about your number. How did it feel to talk about that in church?

Drop the mask this week by talking it over with someone who will help you take your next step out of hiding. Find more at [www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover](http://www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover).

# TALK IT OVER

## MASQUERADE HIDING FROM GOD - WEEK 1

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What was your favorite costume or mask you wore as a child? How differently did you act while wearing it?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 2:25 and Genesis 3:1-21.

These verses tell about how Adam and Eve experienced shame and hid from God after they sinned.

- In what ways are you currently hiding? Are you hiding from God, from yourself, from your hurt or hiding your addictions? Explain.
- What are some things you can do to help you stop hiding and come out into the open?
- What does the fact that Adam and Eve felt no shame before their sin and that they felt shame after their sin tell us about the effects of sin?
- What areas of life do you know you're probably hypocritical? What could you do to address it?
- How have you experienced Satan's shame game? How has shame impacted you?
- Why is it so easy for us to believe the lies that are caused by shame?
- Where are you with God? Be honest in your answer. Where do you need the most improvement?
- How can you take the shame you have experienced and use it to grow stronger?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you to stop hiding from God and deal with shame in your life:

When we dwell on our shame, we believe a lie. One of the best ways to deal with shame is to stop focusing on the lie and focus on God's truth in the Bible instead. Take time this week to read the following verses that show the power of God's forgiveness and how it can remove all shame from our lives: Isaiah 1:18, 1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:12, Titus 2:14, Ephesians 1:7, Romans 8:1, Micah 7:19 and Psalm 103:2-4.

An important way to deal with shame is to release that burden that is hiding inside you by confessing it to both God and others. Take time in prayer to talk to God about the shame that is hindering your relationship with Him. Next, talk it over with someone you trust like a parent, friend, mentor or pastor. Allow God to speak truth through them and allow that person to assist you in getting the help you need in overcoming your shame.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Confess to God the ways that hiding from God is damaging your relationship with Him.
- Ask God to help you. Allow Him to clothe you in His love and grace instead of hiding from Him.
- Have an honest talk with God about where your relationship is with Him currently. Commit to Him that you will make it stronger.
- Ask God to speak to you through this series to call you to be more authentic in all areas of life and to remove all hypocrisy.
- Thank God for all of the sin and shame that He has delivered you from. Take time to praise Him.
- Pray for those that you know are burdened by guilt and shame. Ask God to deliver them.

**MASQUERADE—2  
SELF DECEPTION**

- **THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW THEY DON'T KNOW.**

**TWO TRUTHS OF THE SELF DECEIVED**

- 1) **THE LONGER WE VIEW OURSELVES THROUGH A DISTORTED LENS THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO BELIEVE A DISTORTED TRUTH.**

*For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin. 3 The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. Psalm 36:2-3*

- 2) **OFTEN THE MORE CONVINCED YOU ARE YOU'RE RIGHT THE MORE LIKELY YOU ARE WRONG.**

*Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." 34 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." 35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you..." Matthew 26:33-35*

**THREE STEPS TO LIVE IN TRUTH**

- 1) **PRAY**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24*

- 2) **LISTEN**

*He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. 32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding. Proverbs 15:31-32*

- **What is God or a loved one trying to tell you?**

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- 3) **CHANGE**

*22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22*

*"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:3*

## TALK IT OVER

- Who are some people you're close to that have problems with self-deception? What responsibility do you feel to help them see the truth?
- Ask those you're talking with to help you see the masks you're unaware of. Pray together first if you know that hearing the truth will be hard for you.
- What steps will you take this week to address the changes you need to make?

Drop the mask this week by talking it over with someone who will help you take your next step out of hiding. Find more at [www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover](http://www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover).

# TALK IT OVER

## MASQUERADE SELF DECEPTION - WEEK 2

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What was one of the worst lies you told growing up? What were the results of your deception?

With your Bible or YouVersion, read Psalm 36:2-3 and Matthew 26:31-35. These passages show us two truths of the self deceived.

- What distorted truths do you continue to believe about yourself? How have these lies impacted your relationship with God and with others?
- What things are holding you back from letting go of these distorted truths and embracing the truth?
- Who are some of the people you know that have problems with self-deception? What can you do to help them see the truth?
- Why do we so often hide from ourselves and deny what we know to be true? What steps can you take to stop hiding?

Read Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 15:31-32, James 1:22 and John 8:31-32. We learn in these passages the three steps necessary to live in the truth.

- Why do you think prayer is such a vital component of overcoming our sins and the lies we believe?
- Who are some of the people that you listen to most? How have their words impacted your life?
- What is God or a loved one trying to tell you currently? How have you responded so far to what you are being told?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you to stop hiding from yourself and start living in truth:

One way to stop deceiving yourself and believing lies is to go to the source of God's truth and read His Word. In fact, the Bible has much to say about the dangers of self-deception and how it can negatively impact our lives. Take time this week to read the following verses that discuss self-deception and how God can deliver us into truth: 1 John 1:8-10, Revelation 3:17-20, Jeremiah 17:9 and Galatians 6:1-10.

The message listed three steps that will enable us to stop deceiving ourselves and start living in truth. Even if you're unaware of any issues of self-deception, commit to this process by first praying and allowing God to show you the changes you need to make. Second, ask those you trust to speak truth into your life and really listen. Finally, commit to making the changes necessary that will enable you to stop hiding from yourself.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Confess to God those distorted truths that you believe about yourself. Allow God to show you His truth.
- Pray for those you know who are struggling with self-deception. Ask God to deliver them from the lies and into His truth.
- Ask God to show you the lies you believe about yourself that you refuse to admit. Open your heart to God and allow Him to remove the lies.
- Pray Psalm 139:23-24.
- Ask God to speak to you. Take time to listen for His answer and to guide your next steps.
- Commit to God that you will make the changes necessary to stop hiding from yourself and embrace truth.

**MASQUERADE—3  
HIDING YOUR SIN**

**AFTER YOU SIN, YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES**

- **CONCEAL YOUR SINS.**
- **CONFESS YOUR SINS.**

*He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Proverbs 28:13*

*In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army...But David remained in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup> and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"<sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her...Then she went back home. <sup>5</sup> The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." 2 Samuel 11:1-5*

*For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Luke 8:17*

*... you may be sure that your sin will find you out. Numbers 32:23*

For the story of Nathan confronting David, see 2 Samuel 12:1-14

**WHAT ARE YOU COVERING UP?**

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**TWO TYPES OF CONFESSION**

**1) CONFESS TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS.**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalm 51:1-2, 10-12*

**2) CONFESS TO PEOPLE FOR HEALING.**

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed... James 5:16*

*For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3*

**TALK IT OVER**

- Have you ever been caught in a lie? Share a story from the past that's old enough not to hurt anymore.
- So here you are at the crossroads with someone to confess to. What are you covering up?
- Make a list together of the people you need to confess to. How will you take steps towards being free from the sin you're sick and tired of hiding?

Find forgiveness and healing this week by talking it over with someone who will help you take your next step out of hiding. Find more at [www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover](http://www.lifechurch.tv/talkitover).

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- What is one of the biggest secrets you have ever kept? How well did you conceal your secret?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 28:13, Luke 8:17, Numbers 32:23, 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and 2 Samuel 12:1-14.**

These passages tell us if we conceal our sins, they will be disclosed at some point in time.

- What are some of the dangers of keeping your sins concealed?
- How did one sin lead to another in David's case? How have you seen sin do that in your life?
- What concealed sins do you need to confess to God and to others?

**Read Psalm 51:1-19 and James 5:16.**

In these verses, we learn there are two types of confession: confessing to God for forgiveness and confessing to people for healing.

- What does God's forgiveness mean to you? How has it transformed you?
- What does Psalm 51 teach us about how we should respond to our sins and God's forgiveness?
- Why is confessing our sins to others such a vital part of the healing process?
- How have you seen the short-term pain caused by the confession of sin lead to deeper intimacy with God and others?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you stop hiding from your sins and confess them instead:

Make a list of the people who you need to confess sin to. As you make your list, ask God to begin the healing process in you. Next, commit to talking to as many of the people on your list as possible over the next several days. Confessing to these people will not be easy and will likely cause pain, but the long-term healing that will occur as a result will be worth it.

If you struggle with hiding your sin, take some time this week to find out what the Bible says about the dangers of concealed sin and the power of forgiveness. You can learn more by reading the following scriptures: Ephesians 5:8-14, Psalm 36:2-3, Psalm 69:5 and 1 John 1:9. As you read these passages, talk it over with God in prayer and confess your concealed sins to Him.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Confess your concealed sins to God. Ask for His forgiveness.
- Commit to God that you will take the next step in confessing your hidden sins to those who have been hurt by them. Seek His strength.
- Thank God for the forgiveness He has given you. Tell Him how it has transformed your life.
- Ask God to help you remove the pain and guilt that has been caused by your sins. Seek God's healing.
- Pray for those you know who are struggling with concealed sins. Ask God to show them the need to confess their sins.

## MASQUERADE—4 FINANCIAL FAKERS

*One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. Proverbs 13:7*

*They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Romans 1:25*

### MONEY AND THINGS PROMISE:

- 1) **HAPPINESS**
- 2) **SIGNIFICANCE**
- 3) **SECURITY**

### DROP THE MASK AND EXPOSE THE TRUTH

- **WE TRUST MONEY FOR HAPPINESS BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST.**
- **WE TRUST MONEY TO MAKE US SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.**
- **WE BELIEVE MONEY WILL MAKE US SECURE BECAUSE WE TRUST IN MONEY AND NOT IN CHRIST.**

### A BETTER WAY TO LIVE

- **TRUE HAPPINESS, SIGNIFICANCE AND SECURITY ARE FOUND IN CHRIST ALONE.**

*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake*

*I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ.  
Philippians 3:7-8*

*...A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.  
Luke 12:15*

*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness... 2 Peter 1:3*

*Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.  
Proverbs 15:16*

*Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. Proverbs 15:17*

*Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food. Proverbs 12:9*

### TALK IT OVER

- What is some evidence that would indicate you're looking to money or possessions for happiness, significance, or security?
- What really stuck out the most to you in the message? What actions do you feel prompted to take?
- What are some things you can do to help build your concept of who you are in Christ? Who will you ask to help you?

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# TALK IT OVER

## MASQUERADE FINANCIAL FAKERS - WEEK 4

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What is your most prized possession? What about this item is so special to you?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 13:7 and Romans 1:25 and Matthew 6:24.**

These verses show that real truth comes from God and not in the pursuit of wealth or possessions.

In what ways are you a financial faker? What impact has that had on your life?

Why do we often turn to money and possessions instead of God for happiness, significance and security?

What lies have you come to believe as a result of placing your faith in money rather than God?

**Read Philippians 3:7-8, Luke 12:15, 2 Peter 1:3, Proverbs 15:16-17 and Proverbs 12:9.**

These verses show us that true happiness, significance and security are found in Christ alone.

What is so special and different about the satisfaction you gain from Christ?

How different would your life be if you were no longer under the bondage of money?

How has your trust in money and possessions limited your relationship with God?

What steps do you need to take to help you build a stronger concept of who you really are in Christ?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you stop being a financial faker and instead embrace the truth that Christ is our only source of happiness, significance and security:

If you are living under the bondage of debt, then consider enrolling in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. In this class, you will learn practical ways to not only get out of debt, but also how to live a debt-free lifestyle. This biblically-based program has helped many people live debt-free. You can learn more or take the class online at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/>.

Seek guidance from someone you know that has successfully broken free from the bondage of money, and have placed their full trust in God. Ask them to show you ways that you can better handle your finances in a way that is honoring to God. Also, commit to spending more time in daily prayer and Bible reading as this will help you develop a deeper relationship and trust in God.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Confess to God the ways you have placed your trust in money and possessions instead of placing it with Him. Ask for His forgiveness.
- Share your financial burdens with God and the impact they have on your life. Ask God to help lift these burdens.
- Thank God for the blessings He has given you. Praise Him and tell Him what He means to you.
- Commit to God that you will strive to find your happiness, significance and security in Him alone. Ask for His help.
- Pray for those that you know who are financial fakers. Ask God to help them see His truth.

## MASQUERADE—5 HIDING YOUR HURT

- **THERE IS HOPE BEYOND THE HURT.**

*Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. <sup>6</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. <sup>7</sup> My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. <sup>8</sup> Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. Psalm 62:5-8*

### IF YOU ARE THE ONE HURTING

- **FIND HOPE, HEALING AND COMFORT IN GOD.**

*I am with you and will save you,' declares the Lord. Jeremiah 30:11*

**What is your hurt? What hurt are you concealing?**

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### TWO WAYS GOD HEALS

- 1) **GOD HEALS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.**

*Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.  
Romans 12:15*

*Praise be to the God...the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

- 2) **GOD HEALS THROUGH HIS PRESENCE.**

*But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. Psalm 71:14*

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.  
Psalm 46:1*

*But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5*

*Because God said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."  
Hebrews 13:5*

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3*

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup> I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2*

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Romans 8:38-39*

# TALK IT OVER

## MASQUERADE HIDING YOUR HURT - WEEK 5

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out the questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- How do you typically respond to painful circumstances?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.**

These verses tell us there is hope for our hurts because God heals us through His presence and His people.

- What hurts are you currently concealing?
- Why do we so often keep our hurts concealed from God and others?
- What are some of the dangers when we keep our hurts concealed?
- Have any people been helpful in healing your hurts? If so, what do these people mean to you?

**Read Psalm 62:5-8, Psalm 34:18, and 2 Kings 20:1-5.**

These verses talk about God's ability to heal us.

- How have you experienced God's healing?
- In what ways do you experience God's presence? How does it feel to be in His presence?
- Describe a time when God was a source of hope during a difficult time. How did that experience impact your relationship with Him?
- How can you rely more on God during difficult circumstances?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you stop hiding your hurt and allow God to heal you through His presence and through His people:

One of the ways God heals our hurts is through His presence. We can best experience His presence by spending time with Him. If you are hurting, commit to spending time with God. Tell Him about your hurt. Share your heart with Him. Ask Him to change what you cannot change and heal what you cannot fix. During your time with God, you might consider reading the following passages of scripture that show us how our hurts matter to God. His presence is our source of hope and healing: Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 147:3, Psalm 91:1-2, Psalm 23 and Romans 8:38-39.

God also heals our hurts through other people. If you are holding onto concealed hurts, commit to sharing them with someone else this week. You might share them with a family member, a friend or a pastor. Allow God to speak through other people so you can begin the healing process. The most important thing to remember is to be open and honest with trusted others as you talk it over.

### Talk It Over with God:

- Share your concealed hurts with God. Ask Him to deliver you from the pain.
- Thank God for the people He has placed in your life who have helped you heal from your hurts.
- Ask God to help you experience His presence in a deeper way. Commit to spending time with Him, allowing Him to lead you to a place of healing.
- Pray for those you know who are hurting. Ask God to bring healing to them.
- Tell God what His healing in your life has meant to you.

On the next page you will find scripture cards that go along with this weekend's message. These are great to cut out and carry with you to remind you of God's word. The cards can be printed using Avery #32030 business cards or by simply printing them on regular cardstock and cutting them out by hand.