

DALE LARSEN
AND SANDY LARSEN

QUESTIONS GOD ASKS



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WHERE ARE YOU?

Genesis 3:1-13

Campers in the northern United States and Canada are always unnerved the first time they hear the cries of the common loon. This large black-and-white water bird makes several distinct calls. The yodel is a raucous territorial claim. The tremolo alarm call sounds like maniacal laughter. Eeriest of all is the loon's wail, which sounds like a human voice calling, "Where *are* you?" In fact that is what wailing loons are asking, for they use the wail to locate each other.

So far as we know, "Where are you?" was the first question God posed to humanity. It came at a crisis point between human beings and their Creator God.

Group Discussion. Besides physical location, what are some other ways to answer the question, "Where are you?"

Personal Reflection. When and why have you not wanted to reveal where you were, either physically or in some other way?

God placed the first man and woman in a perfect garden and gave them only one prohibition: "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die" (Genesis 2:16-17). We don't know how long it was before the crafty serpent approached with temptation, but the serpent managed to plant mistrust in Eve's mind, with tragic results. *Read Genesis 3:1-13.*

1. Why did the man hide (v. 8)? The obvious answer is, because he had sinned. But why was he afraid to face God after his sin?

2. God already knew exactly where the man was. Why then would he ask, "Where are you?" (v. 9).

3. What are some implications of the fact that God "called" to the man as opposed to "said"?

4. Where was Adam? Physically he was still in Eden. Apparently it was still a perfect place; the curse and the expulsion from Eden comes later in verses 14-24. But how did Eden suddenly *feel* like a different place?

5. In the space of verses 7-10, how has the relationship between God and humanity radically changed?

6. In that same passage, how has the relationship between God and humanity remained unchanged?

7. Adam gave an honest answer even as he tried to hide from God (v. 10). Adam was in a conflicted spiritual and emotional state, with both honesty and avoidance going on at the same time. In what ways can Christians sympathize?

8. The man and woman couldn't avoid God, but they felt compelled to try. What are some "trees" people try to hide behind in order to avoid God?

9. As Christians we have not gone back to Eden, but we are in a forgiven and restored relationship with God. Then why do we sometimes still try to avoid God?

10. If right now God called to you and asked, "Where are you?," how would you answer?

11. What will you do this week to be more open with God?



Pray that you will fearlessly face the Lord, be honest about your sin, and accept his mercy in Christ.

NOW OR LATER

Study Psalm 139. In this psalm the writer asks, "Where can I go from your Spirit?" and acknowledges that it is impossible to go anywhere beyond the sight of the Lord.

Because of the gospel, Christian believers do not need to fear God's presence. In fact Scripture encourages us to boldly approach the Lord. Study Hebrews 4:14-16 and 10:19-25, where we find assurance that we can approach God with confidence because Christ our high priest has gone ahead of us.