



## How are you participating in this life that has been breathed into you?

READ **GENESIS 22:4b-7, 15-17**, and **3:1-9** IN THE MESSAGE BIBLE

In the beginning, when streams came up from the earth and watered the ground, God formed the first people from the dust and breathed life into them.

God put them in a garden, instructing them to care for it and help it thrive. God invited them to eat from any tree in the garden except for one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Anyone eating from that tree would surely die.

A serpent in the garden convinced the people to eat from that tree anyway. “You won’t die,” the serpent said. “But your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.”

So the people – a man and a woman – ate from the tree. Immediately they realized they were naked and hid themselves. And God called out, “Where are you?”

REMEMBER: Genesis 3:9

Want to memorize some Bible verses? Start with this one:  
*God called to the Man, “where are you?”*

### FURTHER READING, LISTENING, AND ACTION

Brené Brown’s TED talk about vulnerability:  
[ted.com/talks/brene\\_brown\\_on\\_vulnerability?language=en](http://ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability?language=en)

*Sardines* by Robert Fulghum:  
[mjglass.ca/metaphor/getfound.htm](http://mjglass.ca/metaphor/getfound.htm)

Identify a place in your life where you’re hiding – from God, your family, yourself, or the world. What steps can you take to get found? Make a plan and carry it out.

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 15:1-6

## PRESENCE

DAY 1: In this story, the people hide. God looks for them, calling out, “Where are you?” Is God still asking us that question? Where are you hiding? Where is your heart? Your mind? Your attention? Where can the real you be found?

## PRESENCE

DAY 2: Where are you when things in your life seem to fall apart? Can you be in tune with God even when the details in your life are messed up, and everything seems wrong? Does God abandon you in those times? How do you know?

## LOVE

DAY 3: Does this story describe God as a loving parent sending a child out in the world, or a God that exacts justice and discipline at every mistake? Does this God wait for us with wrath, or with open arms to celebrate our joys and mourn our losses? Is God vulnerable? What does it mean to have a vulnerable God? Does that sound weak, or unreliable? Why?

## RELATIONSHIP

DAY 4: Imagine this story from God’s point of view. Who is at the center? Is this story only about you, or is it bigger? How much bigger? Where are you when the world itself seems upside down, when other people are oppressed or in pain?

## CHARACTER

DAY 5: Can you sit in front of the television, idly watching real oppression and violence play out in the world, and still be a “hero” of faith? Or do you need to act heroically in order to be affirmed by God? What is a “hero”? When we know about an injustice, do we have a responsibility to it? How are we called to participate in this life?

## WONDER

DAY 6: Have you ever seen a graphic image and thought, “I can’t un-see that!” Can children see things that make them grow up too fast? Is the Tree of Knowledge like that? Is it forbidden because God likes rules, or because an understanding of evil changes us? How does this story address the reality of growing up, and the loss of innocence?

## RESURRECTION

DAY 7: Can you find in this story a pattern of loss and forgiveness, separation and reconciliation? How will this pattern repeat itself in the stories to come? Does this pattern appear in your life today? Is it built right into creation?