

The First Time People Felt Afraid  
Genesis 3: 8-10

Objective: The students will consider how we fear the spiritual world

Introduction:

We have been studying the beginning of things in Bible time. Everything was fine until two weeks ago, when we met the snake. The snake tricked the woman. Do you remember how the snake tricked the woman? (he asked a tricky question and he lied about what God said.)

Then last week things got worse. What happened last week? (the first time people felt shame, because it was the first time they sinned. They covered themselves.)

Well, this week we will see that things will get even worse. That one little sin caused many bad results. In fact, the Bible teaches that all the pain and sadness in this world are the result of that first little sin. So, maybe sin is not so little!

Questions:

- What did the man and his wife do when they heard God coming?
- Why?

Read Genesis 3: 8-10.

Answer the questions.



### Possible threads to follow:

1. We hide because we are afraid of punishment. I John 4:18  
Can you remember being a little child? You did something wrong, and then you hear your father or mother coming. What did you do? Why?  
Or use the example with their own children. When the children do something wrong, how do they behave? How do you know when your children have done something wrong?
2. Was nakedness really a problem? They had been created naked, and had been happily naked up to now. Why is nakedness suddenly a problem?  
Nakedness is a problem, but there is a more serious problem, their sin. It is hard to admit our sin, it was even hard for Adam and Eve. They were suddenly thinking about being naked, because they didn't want to think about their sin.
3. People are still afraid of the spiritual world. What are some obligations, things you have to do for the spiritual world? (Note: I am attempting to help the students to see that many of the things they do are done out of fear, not love. For example, recently it was *setsubun* (rhymes with 'tune') – did they throw beans? What would happen if they didn't throw beans? The basic question is What would happen if....? they didn't go to the shrine at New Year's, didn't buy a *daruma* for their business, etc. This is an important thread, but also a very delicate one. Be careful.)
4. About fear: John 14: 27
5. About peace with God: Romans 5:1.
6. God's first question: Where are you? Why did God ask a question? Did He need information? (No, He knows everything.) The relationship with the man was broken, and God was sad. God missed the happy relationship they had. God still loved the man, and was calling out to him. God's question would touch the man's heart, and make him remember their happy relationship, too. God is interested in relationships. He always wants to heal relationships. He wants us to have happy relationships. Happy relationships with other people start with a happy relationship with God.