

RETRO SOUL STUDY QUESTIONS

FOR PERSONAL GROWTH OR DISCUSSION

JULY 8, 2018

- 1 What struck you most this week about John's message this past Sunday?

- 2 Read the story found in Genesis 3. What stands out to you from this story? What do you see about the character of God, satan and the first humans?

- 3 Genesis 3:8 says "the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden." There is something familiar about this rhythm, of God. It was his custom to show up in the daily life of the first humans.
 - A What are God's familiar rhythms in your day?

 - B What do those times with God look like? Do you have familiar rhythms of God showing up within your daily life?

 - C Plan your upcoming week - how can you build in daily times to walk with God this week? Set reminders in your phone, or set alarms to make sure it happens.

- 4 Also said in Genesis 3:8: "...Lord God as he was walking in the cool of the day." The cool of the day could be translated "refreshing part of the day." It's a beautiful picture that God brings - he shows up in the refreshing part of your day. In what way do you need God to be your refreshing part of your day today? How and when can you put into your daily routine refreshing moments in the presence of God?

- 5 Genesis 3:8 ends with the first humans running from the presence of God. It could be translated that they were running from the face of God to hide from being seen. Shame, guilt, brokenness, and fear all led them to hide.
 - A Have you ever hidden from God? What drove you to avoid the face of God?

- B What do you think makes us fearful to face God when we are in a season of hide and seek?
- 6 In Genesis 3:9, within the aftermath of humans destroying a perfect creation, we see God's response. He calls out to them, drawing them into conversation, not demanding or attacking. What can we learn from the character and nature of God from this response? What is your experience of God and your mistakes, errors, and sin? How did God treat you throughout it all?
- 7 Read Genesis 3:10-11. When we are in a season of hiding, we often find ourselves viewing God from an incorrect perspective. Like the first humans, we often respond out of fear, even though God moves toward us in grace and mercy.
- A Why do you think the first humans lost the view of the goodness of God so quickly? How have you experienced this in your life?
- B What were some views of God that were incorrect, but you acted like they were true in a season of hiding and struggle?
- C Take time to write out "who God is" - write out things that are true about him in character and nature.
- 8 In Genesis 3:11, we find God asking a question that gets to the root of our often incorrect views of God. He asks the first humans, "who told you that you were naked?" They had begun to listen to their own lies, their own voices over the voice of God. Maybe when you were younger, voices spoke over you, calling you names or giving you an identity and you still carry those voices today. Those voices have now shaped your current reality, creating barriers between you and God.
- A What voices do you still hear, and how do they shape your view of God?
- B Ask God to begin rewriting your story and reality with new words, his voice speaking over you. Take some time to write a list of what you hold onto and how God views you differently.
- 9 Read Ephesians 2:4-10. These verses both describe who God is, what he has done, and how he views you. Take some time to write out correct views of God you see from these verses.
- 10 How do you hope your own soul will change as a result of this study and become a little more retro? What do you think will be the most significant obstacles to that change, and how do you plan to overcome them?