



In Genesis 1–3, we see humanity’s journey from **being** to **becoming lost**: God creates us in his image, calling us to exist in relationship, to steward creation, and to flourish.

But when we turn inward, listening to voices that distort truth, we drift from that calling.

In Genesis 3, God’s first question to humanity after the fall — **“Where are you?”** — is not one of judgment, but a pursuit, inviting us to name our disconnection and return to the life and purpose he intended.

Read Genesis 3:1–9

In Genesis 1–2, humanity is called to **“Be”** - to exist in right relationship with God, others, and creation.

- God’s first words to humanity are found in the first chapter of Genesis: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and steward it” (Gen 1:28).
- Notice the pattern: **identity precedes action**. Because we are made in God’s image, we are entrusted with purpose, flourishing, and stewardship.

In Genesis 3, the tone shifts dramatically: instead of a commission, God asks **“Where are you?”** (ʿayekāh, Gen 3:9).

- This question is not from a God who is unaware, but one who is **pursuing and inviting us to own up**.
- It signals **displacement**: humanity has turned inward, chosen autonomy over trust, and is now hiding.

where
are
you?

Questions for Discussion

1. Exploring God’s question

- What do you think God is looking for when he asks, “Where are you?”
- How does this question feel different from a question of judgment or punishment?

2. Temptation and listening

- In what ways do we experience the “serpent” in our lives today: voices or ideas that distort truth and pull us away from God?
- How do we discern who to listen to? What helps you recognize God’s voice versus other voices?

3. Decision and displacement

- What choices in your life have led to feeling “displaced” or disconnected from God, others, or purpose?
- How can naming where you are help you respond differently?

4. Returning to “being”

- How does remembering that your human identity (being created in God’s image) and your Christian identity (a child of God in Christ) change how you approach your choices?
- What practical ways can we cultivate awareness of God’s pursuit in daily life?

Prayerful Reflection Activity

- Take a few minutes silently to answer: “Where am I right now in my relationship with God?”
- Consider areas of fear, shame, or hiding.
- Invite God’s presence in those places, acknowledging that his question is an invitation, not condemnation.

A Prayer

Lord God,

You created us in your image, calling us to exist in right relationship with you, with others, and with creation. You entrusted us with purpose and the joy of stewardship. Yet we confess that too often we turn inward, listening to voices that lead us away from your path.

Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we hide, the choices that pull us away from our purpose, and the lies we believe instead of your truth. Help us hear your question today: **“Where are you?”**

Open our eyes to see where we have strayed, and grant us the courage to turn back toward you. Lead us by your Holy Spirit, guiding our steps into renewed life, purpose, and fruitfulness.

Amen.

INVITATION

As we approach Lent, I want to encourage everyone to use this season as an opportunity to reflect deeply on the question **“Where are you?”** By placing ourselves rightly in relationship with God, with others, and with his world, we open the door to **new life and renewed purpose**.

The upcoming **Simply Pray for Lent** is a great way to help guide this reflection. Starting Thursday, 26th February, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. These gatherings will provide a space to reflect, pray, and grow together in faith during this meaningful season, especially as we explore the lessons from the parable of the **lost sons (the Prodigal Son)**.

We hope you’ll join us in this journey of rediscovery and renewal.

Prodigal
- finding hope in a story of redemption
A Lent series of gatherings

Join us for a series of Christian contemplative prayer
Thursdays and Friday 10.30-12 noon @ St James Church

Thursday 26th Feb - The Story
Friday 6th March - The Younger Son*
Thursday 12th March - The Elder Son
Thursday 19th March - Knowing the Father*
Thursday 26th March - Becoming the Father*
* these sessions include a simple communion service

Those of any faith and none are most welcome to join us for any of these gatherings

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