**You Are My Hiding Place**

**The Word**

Read together Psalm 32

**The Big Idea**

In times of sin, our temptation is to hide and cover from God as we experience the guilt of our sin. But God invites us instead to honestly confess our sins to him and find in him a refuge of forgiveness in the midst of our sin.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Sunday’s message focused on keeping short accounts with God and going to him regularly in confession. What part does regular confession play in your relationship with God? What does that look like specifically for you?

2. David describes his very physical experience of guilt when he kept his sin secret from God (v. 3-4). What did you think about the idea that we can actually experience physical manifestations of unconfessed sin?

3. On Sunday we discussed the good news that we can be practicing sinners before a holy God who does not count our sins against us. Does there ever come a point where continuing in a particular sin (even with genuine repentance each time) will change God’s posture towards us in some way?

4. What are some practical ways we can live in the joy of our forgiveness even in the midst of our sin and brokenness?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction

A. The gospel: blessed is the one whose sins are forgiven, whose sin the Lord does not count against them (v. 1-2)

B. How we navigate our relationship with God in the midst of our ongoing sin is a critically important issue for each of us

C. Going to God for refuge when our enemies are external is fairly easy, but going to God when the enemy is our own sin can be quite challenging because it is his moral laws that we have violated so our gut response is to pull away from him rather than turn towards him.

D. The Gospel is that we can learn to live in his grace and forgiveness each day

II. David’s experience

 A. His sin

1. He does not specify his sin, but we know that he committed adultery and murder

 2. All of us struggle with sin: lust, anger, envy, sloth, gluttony, greed, pride

 B. His silence (v. 3-4)

 1. In his fear and pride, he did not confess his sin to God but kept it secret

2. Ever since Adam and Eve, the human response is to try to cover, hide, deny, shift blame for our sins

 3. Yet David learns that there is no refuge from the Judge; no hiding from God

 a. God’s hand is heavy on him (v. 4)

 b. He experiences profound physical symptoms of his guilty cover up

c. Often we can actually experience in our bodies the effects of sin and unconfessed sin

 C. His confession (v. 5)

 1. There is a simplicity to his confession

 a. He doesn’t grovel, do penance, vow to be perfect in the future, etc.

b. He simply acknowledges what he’s done, comes out of hiding, and honestly confesses the truth to God

 2. There is a simplicity to God’s response

a. God doesn’t force him to offer many sacrifices or repay him in some way

 b. He simply forgives the guilt of David’s sin

 3. David finds God to be a wonderful refuge even in the midst of his sin

 a. v. 7: God is his hiding place

 b. v. 10: God’s love surrounds David

III. David’s words of wisdom to us in light of his experience

 A. Go quickly to God and confess your sins (v. 6)

 B. Don’t be like a mule that needs a bit and bridle or it won’t do what you want (v. 9)

1. Don’t be a stubborn person who only responds to pain. Don’t make God use pain to get you to do what you should do

2. David was like a mule; he stubbornly kept silent and God had to use pain to get him to confess

3. We want to be quick to confess. We want to have consciences that are soft and receptive to the Spirit’s conviction. We want to keep short accounts with God.

4. Some people’s consciences are “seared” (1 Tim 4:2). Through repeated, unconfessed sin, they’ve become calloused and hardened to God’s conviction.

IV. Conclusion

A. Let’s be people who have soft, receptive responses to the Spirit’s conviction and go quickly to God in confession for forgiveness

B. See 1 John 1:8-9