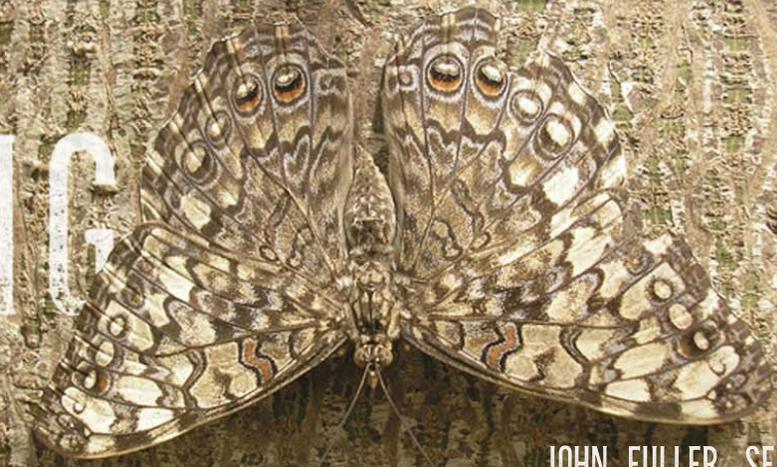


MARCH 25 & 26

# HIDING MY FAITH



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## INTRODUCTION

On a gloomy, chilly morning, hiding in bed seems like a perfect solution to the world outside. Certainly no problem can find us under a cozy blanket next to a soft pillow. Yet, try as we may, we know when we don't deal with the mess, our problems only get worse. While we can project to ourselves and the world "I've got it all together," God knows otherwise. Over the next three weeks, we'll look into those dark places of our lives we attempt to hide and go forward, stepping into the freedom of forgiveness.

## DISCUSSION

1. **Read Matthew 6:1.** Have you found yourself in an instance where your good deeds were for public admiration rather than completing the work of Christ? How did it affect your faith life?
2. **Read Matthew 5:14.** Give examples of what letting your "light shine" looks like in your life now. How does that differ from Matthew 6:1?
3. **Read Matthew 10:39.** Put this verse in your own words. What does this mean? Is there a limit to your faith or have you encountered a limited faith your past? What does it mean to lose your life for Christ?
4. Consider now being hidden within Christ. **Read John 10:28.** What does this mean to you?

## THINK ABOUT IT



Believe it or not, a gecko is hidden in this image. The leaf-tailed gecko employs the biological art of camouflage. Being hidden within its surroundings, it has identity, safety and secrecy. Just as the gecko is clearly part of the world it lives in, being hidden within Christ is not about hiding from the world; rather, it's being linked together with and protected by the Father.

## DO SOMETHING

1. We are well into the season of Lent [the 40 days leading up to Easter]. Who has God placed on your heart? Connect with them this week. Make plans to get them to a service within the next month.
2. Nearly everyone struggles with hiding an aspect of their life from God. What is yours? Take time this week in prayer to give this to God, and this Easter, celebrate the freedom of forgiveness

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