

# LIFE'S TOXIC GAME OF **FAME & SHAME**

## WEEK ONE: **BUILT FOR THIS**

**There is a deep desire in all of us for fame: to be known.**

**We are inclined to carry shame: the feeling and mindset that we are unlovable and that we cannot belong.**

- **Fame breaks us—it doesn't make us.**
- **Shame neglects us—it doesn't protect us.**

**Our pursuits of fame and our feelings of shame are responses to our insecurities.**

**The pursuit of fame and the feeling of shame are the outcomes of sin's curse on humanity.**

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

<sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:1-5 (NIV)

**Satan made a play on humanity's desire to be like God.**

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Genesis 3:6-10 (NIV)

**Shame is the result of our sinful brokenness and being disconnected from God and others.**

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Genesis 3:11-12 (NIV)

**We are not built for fame or shame.**

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:27-28 (NIV)

**We were created to be like God, reflecting His image. We were not created to be God.**

<sup>1</sup> But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. <sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. <sup>4</sup> Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Isaiah 43:1-7 (NIV)

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## WEEK ONE: **BUILT FOR THIS**

**We were created to glorify God.**

SERIES BIG IDEA:

**We were not built for fame or shame, but to glorify God and to be satisfied in Him forever.**

**Satan wants me to pursue fame and to experience shame because both destroy God's image in me.**

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name;  
you are mine."*

Isaiah 43:1 (NIV)

**God wants me to know that He knows my name and that I am His.**



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**TEACHING SUMMARY:**

There are two devices that are destroying people from the inside out with their toxicity: fame and shame. These two toxic tyrants are no respecter of age, race, gender, or class. Both of these infectious invaders lead people down the road of regret—not reward.

Life has made a game out of fame and shame. But, no one wins in life's toxic game of fame and shame. The end of the game is always the same for those who play—they don't experience the life and freedom that God truly wants for them.

But God had a plan to redeem all of us caught in this toxic game. Just as God spoke to the nation of Israel, who were pursuing the fame like other nations and living with the shame of being in exile, God speaks the same to us.

God has redeemed us through Jesus Christ. God knows our name and because of Jesus Christ's work, we are His! We no longer have to play the toxic game of fame and shame.

**TALK-IT-OVER:**

What is a strange way you have observed someone become famous or try to become famous?

Where have you felt the desire to be known push you to chase fame at some level?

Where have you been held back by shame? What kept you from handing it over to God?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:**

Day 1) Psalm 34:1-7

Day 2) Romans 5:1-5

Day 3) 2 Timothy 1:11-14

Day 4) Isaiah 26:7-8

Day 5) James 4:4-10

Day 6) Matthew 23:11-13