

BIBLE RUNAWAYS

There were at least 11 Bible characters who “ran away” when things got tough. They are: Adam, Jonah, Elijah, Mark, Onesimus, Moses, Gideon, Prodigal Son, David, Judas Iscariot, and Peter.

Runaway #1 - Adam

Genesis 2:15-17 - Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die.

Genesis 3:6 - So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

1. True False There was something wrong with the tree of the Knowledge of good and evil.
2. True False God suggested that Adam not eat from that tree.
3. True False God had a specific purpose, plan, and job for Adam in that garden.
4. What was the penalty for eating from the forbidden tree?

It is quite obvious that God was in charge here. He put Adam in the garden; He gave him instructions on what to do and not do; He warned him about the consequences of not listening to those instructions.

5. In your opinion, do you think Adam knew what “you will surely die” meant?

6. In your opinion, do you think Adam discussed the warning about the forbidden tree with his wife Eve before she met the serpent?

7. Do you think that Adam was doing a good job “tending & keeping” the garden?

No matter what might have been said between Adam and Eve about the forbidden tree, after speaking to the serpent, she believed what the serpent said - not what God told Adam.

8. True False Eve ate of the tree mainly because it was good for food.
9. True False Eve ate of the tree mainly because it was a beautiful tree.
10. Why did Eve really eat from the tree? _____

11. Notice that Adam did not take from the tree but took from Eve. Why did he eat this fruit when he knew the consequences that God had spoken?

Genesis 3:7 - Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Genesis 3:8 - And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:10 - Adam said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

12. People run away for various reasons. Modern counselors suggest these reasons. Which of these do you think are the reasons Adam & Eve ran away?

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| ___ Anger | ___ Avoid accountability | ___ Avoid consequences |
| ___ Cannot face a situation | ___ Danger | ___ Discontentment |
| ___ Cannot face an emotion | ___ Family breakdown | ___ Fear |
| ___ Feelings of failure | ___ Loneliness | ___ Spiritual problem |
| ___ No problem-solving skills | ___ Relationship difficulties | |

May I suggest that the main ones here could be: *Cannot face a situation*
Avoid consequences
Fear
Feelings of failure

Running away can be physical (you took off). Running away can be mental (you just gave up); That running away gets you far from people, your conscience, God, or anything that matters.

13. Briefly comment on a time when you ran because: (This is painful sometimes.)

a. You couldn't face a situation

b. You had to avoid the consequences

c. You were scared to death (fear)

d. You had feelings of failure

After Adam & Eve's disobedience here, you would expect God to kill them or destroy them or prevent them from ever having a productive, happy life ever again. However, not true.

GOD'S MERCY & FORGIVENESS WIN AGAIN

14. The consequence = God sent them out of the garden. What was the mercy?

Genesis 3:21 _____

15. The consequence = Woman will experience pain. What is the mercy?

Genesis 3:16 _____

16. The consequence = Man's work will be hard. What is the mercy?

Genesis 3:17,18,19 _____

Our failures and disobedience and running are forgiven by a loving God and He still chooses to use our lives to help people & honor Him (1 Timothy 1:12-13).