

# Fig Leaves vs Animal Skins Study Guide

## Key Concepts

### 1. Many Believe They Are Saved:

- Salvation is not merely about acknowledging Jesus but about a genuine, transformative relationship with Him. Many people live under the assumption that they are saved, but true salvation involves being born again through faith in Christ (John 3:3-8).
- The road to eternal life is narrow, and only a few find it (Matthew 7:13-14). Many reject or neglect God's offer of salvation, focusing instead on self-righteousness or worldly pursuits (Isaiah 64:6).

### 2. Fig Leaves vs. Animal Skins (Genesis 3):

- After sinning, Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves, symbolizing human attempts to cover sin through self-effort. God's provision of animal skins symbolizes the necessity of shedding blood to cover sin (Genesis 3:21), pointing to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, whose blood covers our sins (Hebrews 9:22).
- Human righteousness is inadequate (Isaiah 64:6), but Christ's sacrifice provides the perfect covering for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21).

### 3. My Own Righteousness vs. Jesus' Righteousness:

- Righteousness cannot be achieved through human effort or religious rituals. Salvation comes only through faith in Christ's finished work on the cross. Jesus, who was sinless, became sin for us so that we might receive the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- The cross may seem foolish to those who are perishing, but to believers, it is the power of God for salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18).

### 4. Signs of the Times:

- Scripture warns that we are living in the last days (1 Peter 4:7). Jesus emphasized that the end will come unexpectedly, urging believers to stay vigilant and grounded in faith (Matthew 24:36).
- Hell is real, and those who reject salvation face eternal separation from God, described vividly in Mark 9:47-49 as a place where the worm does not die.

## Biblical References and Key Insights

### 1. **Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT):**

- *“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way.”*
- **Insight:** Many are on the broad path that leads to destruction. True salvation requires intentional commitment and a relationship with Jesus, not mere religious activity.

### 2. **Genesis 3:21 (NLT):**

- *“And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.”*
- **Insight:** This act foreshadows the shedding of Jesus’ blood to cover humanity’s sins. Human attempts to cover shame and guilt fall short; only God’s provision through Christ can cover our sins.

### 3. **Isaiah 64:6 (NLT):**

- *“We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.”*
- **Insight:** Our own efforts at righteousness are insufficient. We need the righteousness that comes from Christ’s sacrifice to be made right with God.

### 4. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV):**

- *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*
- **Insight:** Jesus took on the punishment for our sins so that we could be clothed in His righteousness. It is not our works but His work that saves us.

### 5. **1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT):**

- *“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.”*
  - **Insight:** The world may reject the cross as foolishness, but for believers, it is the source of salvation and the power of God.
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## Practical Applications

- 1. Examine Your Salvation:**
    - Reflect on whether you are relying on self-righteousness or on the righteousness of Christ. Genuine salvation is marked by transformation and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
  - 2. Repent and Accept God's Covering:**
    - Just as Adam and Eve had to remove their fig leaves to put on the animal skins provided by God, we must repent of our self-efforts and receive Christ's sacrifice as the only covering for our sin.
  - 3. Live with Urgency:**
    - Recognize that the signs of the times indicate we are living in the last days. Live with an urgency to share the gospel with others, knowing that many are on the broad path to destruction.
  - 4. Confess and Trust in Christ's Righteousness:**
    - Confess that you cannot achieve salvation through your own works. Trust entirely in the righteousness of Christ and His sacrifice for your salvation (Romans 10:9-10).
  - 5. Guard Against Complacency:**
    - Avoid being lulled into complacency about your faith. Just as no one knows the day or hour of Christ's return (Matthew 24:36), always be prepared and grounded in your relationship with Him.
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## Study Questions

1. How does Genesis 3:21 foreshadow the work of Jesus Christ on the cross?
2. Why do many people believe they are saved, and how can we ensure we are genuinely saved according to the Bible?
3. What is the difference between self-righteousness (fig leaves) and the righteousness of Christ (animal skins)?
4. How does Matthew 7:13-14 challenge common assumptions about salvation and eternity?
5. In what ways does the message of the cross appear foolish to the world? How should believers respond to this rejection?

## Personal Reflection

1. Are you certain that your salvation is based on Christ's righteousness and not your own efforts? How can you be sure?
  2. What are the "fig leaves" in your life—areas where you try to cover your sins through self-effort instead of relying on Christ?
  3. Do you live with the urgency that we are in the last days, actively sharing the gospel and ensuring others have the opportunity to receive salvation?
  4. How does knowing that we cannot achieve salvation through works change the way you live your daily life?
  5. Have you ever struggled with feeling that your sins are too great to be forgiven? How does the message of Christ's complete and final sacrifice give you assurance?
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## Action Steps

1. **Repent of Self-Righteousness:**
    - Identify areas where you have been relying on your own works or good behavior for salvation. Repent and ask God to help you trust fully in Christ's righteousness.
  2. **Commit to Sharing the Gospel:**
    - Recognize the importance of sharing the message of salvation with others, especially in these last days. Pray for boldness to talk about your faith and help others find the narrow path to eternal life.
  3. **Live with Eternal Focus:**
    - Keep an eternal perspective in your daily life, remembering that your decisions and actions should reflect your ultimate goal of living in God's presence forever.
  4. **Pray for Assurance:**
    - If you are uncertain of your salvation, pray for assurance and faith in God's promises. Trust that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for you, and commit to growing in your relationship with Him.
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## **Sample Prayer**

*"Lord, I acknowledge that I have often tried to cover my sins through my own efforts, but I now confess that only Your righteousness can cover me. I repent of my self-righteousness and ask You to forgive me for relying on my own works. I thank You for the sacrifice of Jesus, who died and rose again so that I might be made righteous in Your sight. Help me to live with the assurance of my salvation and the urgency of sharing this gift with others. In Jesus' name, Amen."*