

Naked Truth Message Questions Week 1 Sept 22/24

Please Note: *If you are viewing videos online or in the App, Ed's video appears first and Christopher West second. Please skip ahead to time code 3:03 in order to watch the Christopher West clip first. If you have a DVD version of the videos, they are in the correct order.*

Discussion to follow the Christopher West clip: time code 3:03

We've lost sight of the life that we were made for in Genesis 1- 2, a life of beauty and fulfillment. Why? We've all made our own choices to go out looking on our own for happiness apart from the Creator. Christopher West starts us off on this 6 week journey with a discussion of desire.

Show Christopher West clip.

Discuss the following questions. Although we could discuss these questions for hours, keep this part of the discussion down to 10 minutes.

How do **people** finish the following sentence: If only I _____ I'd be happy.

How do you think the "Woman at the Well" in John 4 might have completed that sentence?

Christopher West gave the example of our physical thirst as a sign of a thirst for something deeper. What other physical desires/desires for finite things, might be signs of a deeper spiritual thirst? Explain your thoughts.

Discussion to follow Ed's video clip/message:

Show Ed's video clip.

Message Central Thought: When we choose to live into God's vision, our lives will flourish, thrive, work.

Read Genesis 1:1; 2:7 Answer the following question based on your reading.

- What is on God's resume that gives Him credibility as a source for finding our way to a life that flourishes?

Read Isaiah 55:1-3. Answer the following based on your reading.

- If God were to send out an Evite based on His invitation in this passage, what would it say? Who, What, Where, Why?

Accessing God's vision for us involves an understanding of His design for the human person. Which of these design concepts hold the most meaning for you and why?(If you're short on time, just read the description of the concepts and circle the one that is most meaningful. Move on to the next question.):

- We are made in the image of God as embodied spirits.
- The source of our creation and the design of our bodies bears a message that we were made by, for and to love.
- Woman was created to complete the image of God in humanity.

Read Genesis 3:7-9. Answer the following from the passage and Ed's message:

- What were the results of the Fall (ie humans choosing to find their own way to flourish apart from the direction of God)?

Personal Reflection:

Standing at your own Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

This is a time set aside for personal reflection. While you're still in group, spend 5-10 minutes in silent reflection, writing your responses to the following questions:

How would you finish the sentence: If only I _____ I'd be happy?

"God has placed (the desire for happiness) in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfill it." (CCC)

Ask God if He can fill the desire you named in the first reflection question. (Write your question as a prayer.)

Can you identify a deeper spiritual thirst in yourself that this physical/finite desire might be pointing to? (Possibilities: safety, intimacy, significance, belonging, acceptance, deep satisfaction with life.)

Are you willing to stop pursuing the satisfaction of that physical/finite desire and wait for God to show you that He alone can fill it? Be brutally honest.

If not, why not?

- I'm not sure that God is good and means good for me.
- I'm not sure that God is wise and has thought of everything.
- I need God to reveal Himself and His vision to me.
- I'm not ready to be re-done, reconciled and recreated by God.

(Talk to God about this through a written prayer below.)

Suggestion: Go together as a group to the Christopher West workshop this weekend! It might be fun to spend the lunch break together. Who's in? You can sign up right now on the Journey App or online journeycommunitychurch.com/west