

SESSION 2.4 THIS IS PERSONAL

WATCH VIDEO



TIP.....

Tell them they are about to hear an incredibly powerful story.



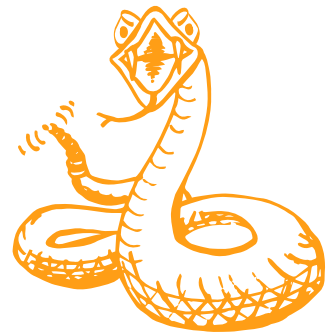
7 MIN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [WB47]



10 MIN

- 1) What did the story about the rattlesnake make you think?
- 2) What does the rattlesnake represent for you? Who or what is holding you back? What is it that sooner or later is going to turn on you and strike you down? How would your life be better if you could walk away from that rattlesnake?
- 3) If you had more courage, what good thing would you do?



STEP 3 ENGAGE: WATCH & DISCUSS

CONTINUED...

EXERCISE VIRTUE IN FOCUS



5 MIN

TIP

Every session highlights a virtue. Invite a candidate to read the **Virtue in Focus** section. Choose one of the questions from the section and ask the candidates to share their answers. [WB37]

THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, OF ALL THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE. I BELIEVE IN ONE LORD, JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD, BORN OF THE FATH

2.2 STINKING THINKING

Even though God has given us incredible minds to reason with, we still do a lot of **stinking thinking**. Let's take a quick look at some of the paths that the world proposes for happiness.

Individualism. The creed of the individualist is: What's in it for me? Individualism is the philosophy of selfishness. The fruits of individualism are greed, selfishness, isolation, and exploitation.

Individualism is stinking thinking.

Hedonism. The creed of the hedonist is: Pleasure is the ultimate goal in life; if it feels good, do it! The fruits of hedonism are laziness, gluttony, procrastination, and lust.

Hedonism is stinking thinking.

Minimalism. The creed of the minimalist is: What's the least I can do? A minimalist is always seeking to exert the minimum effort and receive the maximum reward. Minimalism is the enemy of excellence and the father of mediocrity.

Minimalism is stinking thinking.

Relativism. The creed of the Relativist is: There is no absolute truth; what's true for you may not be true for me! Relativism contradicts itself because it claims, "It is absolutely true for everybody that nothing is absolutely true for everybody." The fruits of relativism are disorientation, intellectual and spiritual confusion, and hopelessness caused by the loss of any meaning in life.

Relativism is stinking thinking.

Great thoughts are beautiful. Great actions are inspiring. Are any of these philosophies beautiful? I think not. When someone embraces these broken ways of thinking and living, do they inspire anything good? Absolutely not.

They may be convenient to your disordered desires and selfishness at a particular moment, but do they really suffice as a philosophy to live your life by?

Reject the world's vision for your life. *It will leave you empty and dissatisfied.* Rebel against the culture.

Reject these broken philosophies and watch out for people who live by them, because they will only use you for their own benefit and selfish gratification.

Beyond yourself, these philosophies also mean doom for communities of any size.

What would happen to a community—a family, a parish, or a nation—if everyone lived by these self-centered philosophies? Those communities would grow apart, fall apart, and self-destruct.

In many ways this is what we are witnessing in world affairs today. As modern cultures and nations become increasingly secular, rejecting God and his ways, they begin to implode. *Anything that stands against God and his truth cannot last.*

Truth, beauty, and goodness: These are what your soul is thirsty for. The philosophies the world wants to pass off to you are deficient in all three.



VIRTUE IN FOCUS

Courage

[kur-ij]

Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

What has been the most courageous moment of your life?

Who is the most courageous person you know?

In what situations would you like to have more courage?

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WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK? ○○●●●●●●●●