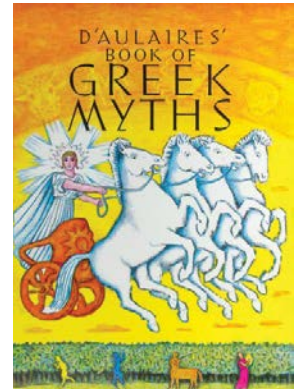


TRY THIS AT HOME!

A THEOLOGY OF THE BODY LESSON FOR THE HOME



1. Read page 92 of *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire which tells the story of Narcissus.
2. Ask your child questions about the myth:
 - Before Echo was punished was she able to be in relationship with others? Why or why not?
 - Who was Narcissus? What caused him to stare into the pool?
 - What do you think might have caused Narcissus to love only himself?
 - In this myth, who is happy and who is unhappy?
 - Does Narcissus know himself? How do you get to know more about yourself?
 - Are there similarities between the myth of Echo and Narcissus and the creation account of Adam and Eve? Are there differences?
3. At the end of the story choose one of the following activities:



Are there other characters that have struggled with pride and selfishness in stories that you have read as a family? Compare this with characters who have made a gift-of-self. How are they similar? How are they different? Who would you want to be like?

Consider some act of service that you might do as a family. Is there a relative you could visit? A food pantry where you could help? Could you donate toys to those in need? Could siblings help each other with homework or chores?

Our bodily senses help us to enter into relationship with others. Consider some ways you might do this as a family:

- Sing or play music for an audience.
- Make a beautiful gift to give to a neighbor or person in need.
- Go on a nature walk together.
- Prepare and share a meal together.
- Give each other hugs.

4. Pray the Canticle of Mary or some other suitable prayer with your child.

HOW DOES THIS STORY TEACH THEOLOGY OF THE BODY?



The myth of Echo and Narcissus helps to highlight the fact that we are made for relationship with others. Narcissus is closed in on himself and unable to enter into relationship with others which leads to his fading away. It is impossible for Narcissus to really know himself; in fact, he is unaware that he is seeing his own reflection, because he is not making a gift-of-self. In the Genesis creation account, we learn that Adam and Eve are able to see the world from the point of view of another and this leads to their flourishing as persons.