

TRY THIS AT HOME!

A THEOLOGY OF THE BODY LESSON FOR THE HOME



WHAT IS ORIGINAL NAKEDNESS?



Original solitude pointed us to the relationship between man and God and original unity pointed us to the relationship between man and woman. Because the body reveals the person, original nakedness refers to something much deeper than the fact that Adam and Eve were created without clothing. The Hebrew word for naked refers to the fact that there was nothing covering the person and therefore nothing hidden between the two. Stated positively, it refers to Adam and Eve being fully open to each other and able to see as God sees. Adam and Eve are completely open to each other, the world around them and to God. In looking at each other Adam and Eve immediately see another person made in the image and likeness of God. The experience of original nakedness is about seeing as God sees because we are created in his image and likeness. The world, and everything in it, is a gift and is good.

1. Read Genesis 2:4-25 with your child.
2. Ask your child questions about the Scripture account:
 - The word “naked” means more than just being without clothes. When a baby is born it is born naked but we don’t think of that as silly or awkward. I wonder what God might want us to understand about Adam and Eve when Scripture says they were naked?
 - Do you think Adam and Eve might have a particular way of seeing the world? Are there any clues in the Scriptures?
 - Read Genesis 1:31. How does God see the world? Is there something similar about the way that Adam and Eve see the world?
3. At the end of the reading choose one of the following activities:

Discuss ways a family is open and transparent with each other. How does this attitude help us receive others as a gift from God?

Go on a nature walk and focus on seeing all of creation as a gift from God. Collect various items to bring into the home for a display or dinner table centerpiece.

Bring out your child’s baptismal garment and/or candle. Discuss how Christ lives in us from the moment of our Baptism and we reveal his love to the world. Also discuss how Baptism and Reconciliation remove sin and therefore we have nothing to hide and can be more open to God, the world and others.

4. Pray the Lord’s Prayer with your child.