

Go Deeper . . .

Use these questions for further study individually or in a small group

Disillusioned • having lost confidence, trust, or respect in someone or something formerly regarded as good or trustworthy; often after discovering a previously unseen truth or reality, and often with feelings of sadness, disappointment, discouragement, or distress.

Think back to a time in your life when you experienced disillusionment.

What was it about?

What did it feel like?

How did you respond to it?

Pastor Adam taught that people often tend to take 2 different routes when facing deeply challenging realities: denial & cynicism.

Denial is an effort to maintain the “world of illusion” and to remain unaffected by an intrusive reality.

Why is this an attractive option for some?

What does denial look like when people engage in it?

Is this a path you have taken or have been tempted to take?

How does Prov. 22:3 warn against the path of denial?

Cynicism is what happens when a hard reality becomes the only reality in someone’s life and colors how they see and understand everything else.

Why is this an attractive option for some?

What does cynicism look like in someone’s life?

Is this a path you have taken or been tempted to take?

How do Prov. 14:6 & 26:12 warn against the path of cynicism?

How are cynicism and denial ultimately self-defeating strategies?

How do these paths harm the people around us when we take them?

How do these paths work against our Christian witness?

Some warning signs of denial: distraction, busyness, over-work, seeking stimulation, numbing out, projection, getting lost in fantasies, conspiratorial thinking, letting problems go unaddressed.

Some warning signs of cynicism: sarcasm, criticism, isolation, arrogance, rejecting others before they can reject you, disengagement, anti-social behavior, nihilism.

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