

Decision 1:

Forsake the Fake & Relish the Real

BIG IDEA

“The world desperately needs men with a larger vision for themselves. It needs men who resist distortion, who engage reality at all times, and who are fully real themselves.” (p61)

HUDDLE UP

What is something that is fake you enjoy as much as (or more than) the real version and why? For example, maybe your family likes having a fake Christmas tree versus a real-life pine.

What things are always better real versus artificial?

Continue having men share their stories using “The 3x3 Method”.

FROM DECISION 1

“My sin isn’t sin because it’s on a random list of activities that God just doesn’t happen to like. *My sin is sin because it stops me from being who I’m supposed to be and what I could have been.* It’s a shortcut that leads away from the kingdom of God, where I can flourish, to a different kingdom - the kingdom of me.” (p56)

“It may not seem like it, but there is a longing in us far more powerful than lust. Yet lust is what’s on offer from our culture, and it always promises something it never delivers. ‘Lust,’ Frederick Buechner wrote, ‘is the craving for salt of a man who is dying of thirst.’” (p60)

“The bigger vision [for our lives] will win. Once we see it, we have to do whatever it takes to make it possible. This is not about guiltting ourselves into obedience; it’s about getting a glimpse of something beautiful...Your life lived in the fullness of your Creator’s intent. You being maximally you, instead of being dragged into the muck of the surrounding culture.” (p66-67)

“The hurting world and *your* hurting community need *you* to solve real-world problems, protect real-world people, and fight real-world injustice. Please don’t waste your God-given desire for adventure and accomplishment by being a fake hero fighting fake injustices in fake worlds.” (p75)

KEY QUESTION

If we are to forsake the fake and relish the real, then we need to know the differences between them. How do you differentiate between “the fake” and “the real”?

NEXT STEPS

In your area of growth (see “GOOD WORK” section, page 10) what is one thing you can do to “forsake the fake & relish the real”?

“Make it Stick” Tip:

Be sure to circle back to the last conversation you had about your goal/tasks. When we only look ahead to what’s next, we can forget what we were doing that got us where we are. Be sure to ask, “Hey, remember how I committed to _____? Well, this is how it went...”

PRAYERS / NOTES FOR NEXT TIME

**What prayers or thoughts do you have in this area of your life?
How can this group help you?**