

Week 10: We believe our worship and creativity have the power to inspire others upward and forward.

INTRODUCTION:

I think we can all agree that it can be a challenge keeping our focus on the Creator rather than the creation. Life is busy and seemingly demands our constant attention, which can leave us drained and discouraged. And so, when the church gathers together, it's easy to remain in consumer mode. But God didn't create us to simply consume. He created us to also create. In fact, as image-bearers, we have the ability to glorify God in all kinds of ways like no other part of creation. When that happens, it becomes truly inspirational to others. And so, through our worship and creativity not only can we glorify God, but we have the power to inspire others upward and forward.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Please share with the group what worship means to you. Discuss with one another passages of Scripture that have helped you better understand worship.
- 2) On Sunday, Pastor Dave referenced the book: "Letters of Modern Mystic" and how the author attempted to "practice the presence of God" continually in his life. When (times during the week) is it the easiest to focus on God and when is it the most difficult?
- 3) Hopefully, you find that when you gather with other Christ-followers that it's much easier to focus on God than other parts of your day/week. Who in your life has inspired you upward and forward, and how did they do it?
- 4) Read Genesis 1 and 2. In your words, what does it mean to be an image-bearer of God? How does knowing that you were made in the image of God help you understand the theology of worship and creativity?
- 5) Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What should be our focus be when we gather together? How does that relate to how we approach Sunday morning?
- 6) Often corporate worship can be very "me" focused and I'll only sing songs that I prefer. Read Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16-17. How did Paul view corporate worship and what did he hope to happen when they "spoke" these psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to one another?

- 7) Both the tabernacle (Exodus 35-39) and the Temple (1 Kings 6) were sacred places of worship. Describe how creativity played a major role in the construction and how it inspired worship to generations.
- 8) Read 1Kings 6:29;32;34. In the temple, Solomon flooded the temple with carved images of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. What do you think he was he trying to communicate and do with these images?
- 9) What images/verses (if any) have you placed in your world that inspire you (and others) upward and forward?
- 10) How do you define creativity (think biblically and broadly)? What are your creative gifts? How could your church, family, and friends benefit from your creative gifts?
- 11) Read Psalm 104. How does the psalmist use his creativity and our imagination to stir within us worship to God?
- 12) As good as routine can be, it can also create a sense of staleness. How does creativity help keep what is “sacred” from becoming “routine”?
- 13) Describe, in your own words, what a church would look like if it was fully committed to both worship and creativity?
- 14) How does the Gospel inspire you to worship and create?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

We often aren't worshipful or creative, because we have no margin for it our lives. Create space this week to spend time with God, and ask Him to show you ways in which your creativity could be used to glorify Him.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Memorize Psalm 34:3 - Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.