

LEADER NOTES

SCRIPTURE ASSISTANCE:

Romans 1:20

God teaches us about Himself through the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures of His art. Greg argued that whenever you see a beautiful sunset or a starlit night, you have been communicated to through beauty — through God’s artistic creation.

Exodus 31:1-11

In the book of Exodus, God gives to this new, young nation of Israel, the law. And He doesn’t just give a moral law of how they are to live, He also gives a ceremonial law, and He gets very specific concerning things like the type of clothing the priest should wear, the appearance of the ark of the covenant, the appearance of the furniture in the tabernacle, and the materials used to make them. It is safe to say that, for God’s people to learn what they needed to learn, it was not enough for them to simply be taught certain truths. They had to experience certain things through their senses — they had to see certain things, feel, smell and hear certain things, in order for them to learn truth in a deeper way. And God cared enough to appoint and equip certain individuals to do this work well.

Song of Solomon 7:2

We see the high value that God places on art in huge sections of the Bible that are devoted to poetry — books like Job and Song of Solomon. It seems best to say that God feels there is something incredibly valuable in communicating certain truths through artistic expression. It would seem that God finds art useful in shaping the experience and theological understanding of His followers.

KEY POINTS:

What does “good” art do?

- Good art conveys truth that is both complex and inescapable.
- Good art gets us out of ourselves.
- Good art shapes culture.

What should we do?

- Do something.
- Learn about art forms that you don’t understand.
- Fan into flame your own creativity.
- Be an intentional patron of the arts — both old and new.

STRUCTURING YOUR DISCUSSION:

As you consider how to best structure your time together, we would like to fill you in on the format for these Sermon-Based Studies. We have designed them to encourage greater clarity and simplicity while generating personalized discussion for your group. Questions are assembled into three main categories: **Connect**, **Engage**, and **Respond**. Each section has a different, but important emphasis which will help you lead your group in a discussion that is relational with a cause.

- **CONNECT:** This section focuses on reconnecting your group with the **series**, with the **sermon**, and with **each other**. Questions here are designed to get everyone involved, so each person can have something to contribute. Since you know your group best, feel free to find questions or activities that best accomplish the goals of connecting with each other, the topic at hand, and broader themes of discussion.
- **ENGAGE:** During this part of the study, your group will interact and engage with **God's Word**, with the **message**, and with **life**. These questions have been specifically designed to get you into Scripture that relates to the weekend message so you can engage life with His truth.
- **RESPOND:** After engaging with God's truth, it is important to respond. How should you respond as an **individual**? How should your group respond **corporately**? Questions here will challenge you and your group to think about how to apply discussed principles to practical life.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

If you want further help with studying the Scriptures, consult a study and/or reference Bible. Contact our office if you are looking for free commentary helps. Many of the helps and concepts referenced above have come from the ESV Study Bible. Contact Eric Torrence (etorrence@chaseoaks.org) if you need any additional help. Thank you for your leadership!