

## Art Matters Discussion Questions

1.24.16

### Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

### Questions

#### **Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.**

1. What sort of art do you enjoy either creating it or experiencing it?
2. When have you experienced art that moved you emotionally?

### Background

The Israelites are on the banks of the Jordan River and can see across into the Promised Land. The 40 years of wandering in the desert are nearly done and Moses knows he will not be joining the people in the land promised to them by God. At this point in the story God is describing for Moses the Tent of Meeting (later to become the Tabernacle) and all its refinements as well as how worship will be conducted. God goes into great detail about how to set everything up and absolute essential nature of things like making sure the priests are consecrated. In this same section he takes the time to explain to Moses that he has called and gifted two men to create the beautiful carvings and displays that are to be part of the Tabernacle. Then he expands on the idea to include all those who work with their hands.

Read Genesis 1:1 – 27; Exodus 31:1-11

#### **Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.**

1. Talk about Genesis 1 from the perspective of art.
  1. What is in the background? Foreground?
  2. What are the broad outlines of form? What is the detailed filling of shape and color?
  3. What are all the ways this description connects with all 5 senses?
2. How are Bezalel and Oholiab described?
3. What sort of things could be found in the tent as described in this section?
4. Who determined what should be included and how it should all look?

#### **Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.**

1. If all we had was Genesis 1, what could we say God is like?
  1. What does that imply it then means to be made in God's Image?
2. Based on how God describes Bezalel and Oholiab in the first few verses what value should be placed on art?
3. Why, do you think, the author of Exodus included the names of the artists who created much of the beautiful things found in the tent?
4. How does beauty impact your worship experience?

#### **Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.**

1. How might God be calling you to observe His world more closely?
2. What creative endeavor in your life might God be wanting to encourage in you?
3. How might God be inviting you to view Him differently?
4. How do you think believers should celebrate and participate in artistic expression? Inside the church and outside it.
5. If art and beauty can be part of worship how can we use them to draw those who do not know Jesus to him?

#### Closing

Beautiful things can move people to worship even when they don't fully understand what is happening. Art can be found in words, deeds, paintings and so many other expressions of who we are and who we were created to be. Spend some time praying together seeking ways to show people that God is interested in all aspects of our lives, including the art we create.

Reminder: Matter matters to God because everything he has made was good and one day he will renew this world to its Eden-like perfection. As the rulers put here to fill and take care of this world we must live reintegrated lives and not only look to a future where we escape this place. We must accept the reality of the "already but not yet" in which we find ourselves.