



"THE WAY OF BEAUTY"

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

GENESIS 1; EXODUS 3, PSALM 19, PSALM 29

In our current sermon series, we are looking at ancient practices of the church that connect us to God in a deeper, richer way. This week, Pastor Brad examines the role that beauty plays in our lives. The Bible is full of examples of when and how God has used nature, beauty, and awe to display his wonder and get the attention of his people. Though our busy, efficient world often overlooks the importance of beauty and wonder, it is an essential element in connecting with God deeply.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. When you hear the word, "beauty" what images, experiences, or ideas come to your mind?
2. What's the most beautiful place you've ever been?
3. Which do you find most beautiful: beaches, mountains, or some other landscape? Why?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Read Genesis 1. What do you learn about beauty and God's creation?
2. In Exodus 3:1-2, where is Moses when he encounters God? How does God get his attention? What might that have to do with our study of beauty?
3. In Psalm 19:1-6, how does the Psalmist describe creation? What relationship does creation have with God in this Psalm?
4. What do you learn about God's relationship with nature from Psalm 29?
5. What lessons do you find in these verses about the importance and power of beauty as a way to experience God?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How does our world generally view beauty? How does this compare with the Bible's view of beauty?
2. What are some ways that people (both within and outside the church) try to connect with God (or with the divine or spirituality if they aren't Christians)? What role does beauty play?
3. Why do people in our world think nature is so important? How is this related to how God created and interacts with his world?
4. Where do people go to experience awe? What impact have you seen awe or experiences of beauty have in the lives of others?
5. What are some places that people might go or things they might do to experience beauty?

CONTINUED:

Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How have you generally viewed the role of beauty in your life?
How has this sermon/these passages encouraged or challenged you?
2. What role does beauty play in how you connect with God?
How could you incorporate beauty into your life more?
3. Has God ever spoken to you through nature, awe, or beauty?
What was that experience like and how did it impact you?
4. Where could you go or what could you do to experience beauty?
5. Have you thought of beauty as a way to connect to God before this sermon? How does this idea impact how you view your walk with God?

LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What's one thing you can do this week to try to experience God through beauty?