

**Broken Signposts (4 of 7)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, March 19th 2023**



**Sermon Series:** Broken Signposts | Lent 2023 Sermon Series

**Sermon Title:** How Beauty Leads Us Home

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 8:1-9; 27:4; John 1:14; 11:38-44; Revelation 4:2-3

**Sermon Focus:** Look up on a starry night. Watch a sunrise. Take in the majesty of a mountain range. Better yet, look into the face of a child. Whether it is natural beauty or the sort that human beings create through music and art, they are all signs pointing us beyond this broken world. In the fourth message of our series, Pastor David shares how beauty invites us to gaze upon the glory of God and leads us home into his presence.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message by inviting us to think of a time when we experienced something so wonderful, so meaningful, and so beautiful that you wished you could just stay in that moment forever. Can you think of a time like that in your life? Share an example or two with your small group.
2. Have you ever stopped to consider how *fleeting* beauty is and that its momentary nature is an indicator that the world is broken and not as it should be? Does it help you to think of beauty as a signpost pointing beyond this world to new creation?
3. The early church affirmed the three prime virtues of Greek philosophy: truth, goodness, and beauty. Early Christian theologians said these are “objective” virtues because the living God is true, good, and beautiful. What happens to our world when we are no longer able to see these as *objective* virtues that point to a true, good, and beautiful God? What happens when beauty is an end unto itself?
4. Read Revelation 4:2-3, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 27:4, and John 1:14. God is beautiful. He has given us evidence of this in creation and in the incarnation of Christ. What helps you connect best with the beauty of God on your journey as a disciple?
5. There is a lot of darkness, despair, and nihilism in the arts and media today. This is reflective of the mood of our culture, but it’s also due to the lack of beauty. Why do you think the church hasn’t led the way when it comes to high quality art, music, films, etc.? What can we do to reclaim beauty within Christianity? What would that look like in your home and daily life? What would that look like in our church?
6. Pastor David said: *“What if it’s time to see beauty as a way for people to encounter God, and possibly a better way to evangelize in American culture—to invite people to gaze upon the glory and beauty of God through creation, art, literature, film, dance, music, and whatever else has the creative potential of shining the light, touching the soul, and turning weary eyes upon Christ?”* What might this look like in our relationships with those who aren’t followers of Jesus? How can we share our faith by “leading with beauty” instead of reason and arguments?
7. If you have time and are interested, watch the Sanctified Art video that was used at the end of the sermon to help you enter a group time of contemplative prayer together: <https://vimeo.com/400079553>