

THE ARTISAN SOUL

CREATING YOUR LIFE INTO A WORK OF ART

Session 1: Soul – The Essence of Art

February 9 – 15, 2020

Great is about execution and achievement; good is about essence and ethos. The artisan soul aspires to do great a work but never neglects the importance of being inspired by all that is good and beautiful.

~Erwin McManus, *The Artisan Soul*

Hang Out (30 Minutes)

1. Ice Breakers: Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.
 - What has taken your breath away by its beauty?
 - What inspires you?
2. Go through the Life Group Agreement and plans for your next meetings.

Watch The Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. Leaders, guide the group to the questions you think will be most helpful.

1. What is a creative moment you've experienced in your life? What happened? What was so creative about it?
2. On the back of this sheet there is an ordinary figure in a box. Take a moment and create a drawing from the figure provided.
 - What did you draw?
 - What did you notice about yourself as you began to engage in drawing?
 - What did you notice about yourself while you were drawing?
3. Read Genesis 1:3-4, 10, 12, 16-18, 21, 25, 27, 31. The refrain for the creation account from these verses in Genesis 1 is, "And God saw that it was good." What was so good about the creation God made?
4. What do you think it means that God "saw" that the creation was good and not, "And God said that it was good"? Why do you think God didn't say it the creation was "great"? What difference does McManus' thought quoted to the right make in your understanding of why the creation was called "good"?
5. What difference would it make if the refrain, "And God saw that it was good" was removed completely from the creation account? What does the refrain add to the account?

6. What difference does it make to you knowing that you are a creative being simply because you are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27)?
7. In the creation account, God makes a visible creation out of nothing. Erwin McManus, author of *The Artisan Soul*, said that the best definition for creativity is "materializing the invisible." What idea do you hope to make visible someday?

Bonus material

Watch Erwin McManus discuss *The Artisan Soul*. Leaders – this video is posted on your resources website.

1. Read Genesis 2:7. In what ways does God look and act like an artisan when the first human being is created? What does this say about us being created in the image of God?
2. Erwin said, "The way that bees create hives, and ants create colonies, humans create futures." What is the future you are seeking to create?

Next step

Commit to one of the following to be your next step this week:

- Make love the unifying principle of your life- let love inform all your motives, decisions and actions.
- Set time apart to be alone - begin with fifteen minutes a day to decompress and reconnect with God.
- Begin a practice of prayer and reflection focused on gratitude.
- Use the Psalms as a guide to work through your emotions, questions, and aspirations
- Allow the Scriptures to inspire you and awaken your artisan soul
- Take time to see and absorb the beauty and wonder all around you.
- Take time to enjoy life, and make sure your find time to laugh
- Connect to others in the community of faith, sharing your hopes and dreams with them.
- Do more of the things you love and less of the things that kill your spirit.
- Spend more time with people who inspire you and less time with those who crush your spirit.
- Invest in yourself by bringing into your life voices who inspire you and refresh your spirit.

~From *The Artisan Soul* by Erwin McManus

Pray (5 Minutes)

On the index card provided, write down a prayer request you have for yourself. Pass it to the person 3 people to your right. Commit to praying for the idea shared with you during the next week.

