



With One Voice

[A Musician's Calling: A.J. De Grasse]

Synopsis

A science engineer turned musician shares how he felt called to use music for the kingdom of God.

Prepare the Soil

Before viewing *A Musician's Calling*, open with a time of prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and guide you in your understanding and response. Once you have prayed ask the following questions:

1. What kind of music do you enjoy and why?
2. How is music different from other art forms?
3. Why do you think God created music?
4. How can music draw us closer to God?
5. What pieces of music or songs have helped you do this?

Plant the Seed

Play the video: *A Musician's Calling*.

Cultivate the Heart

As members of the body of Christ, God often uses music through the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into new areas of growth. Use the following scriptures to help you explore further the concept of using music as a way of reaching out to people with God's love.

1. Listen to God and be open to his nudging.
 - a. a.1 Chronicles 13:8 How can you sing or make music “with all your might” for God?
 - b. b.2 Chronicles 5:12-14 If you were to take a bold step to use your gift of music for God,

in what ways would you love to see Him work?

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| c. | e. Psalm. 57:6-8
to | How can you keep your eyes on Him when other people try sabotage what you are doing? |
| d. | f. Psalm 108:1-6 | What are the ultimate goals in using music for God? |
| e. | i. Psalm 89:1-3
of | How is taking a step like this important for the next generation those who love God? |
| f. | f. 1 Corinthians 13:1
you | Why is it so important to take care of your spiritual health as take this step? |

Grow

Apply what you've learned. The following questions and exercises will help your group discover new ways to grow spiritually, emotionally and professionally.

1. AJ mentions the challenge of being “in the world, but not of it.” Do you think Jesus did this?
2. One obstacle A.J. had to overcome came from his own church. What kinds of obstacles might you encounter in your congregation as you pursue your calling as an artist?
3. How can you surmount these obstacles in a godly way?
4. How do you know if God is calling you to minister through your gifts and skills?
5. How can we trust God when He calls us to do difficult things for Him?
6. What opportunities is He placing in your life to be a minister through the arts?
7. Who is a friend or church musician who has ministered to you deeply? How can you best encourage and affirm their musical gift? Consider writing them a note or taking them to lunch as a thank you.
8. Study the masters (Christian and secular) of music. Go on-line and explore music from various genres, from the music and songs used in the Tabernacle, Gregorian Monks to the classical and contemporary composers, world music, opera and jazz to present-day artists. A few resources are listed here to get you started:
 - a. <http://www.amazon.com/100-Worlds-Best-Loved-Melodies/dp/B0009VNBR4>
 - b. <http://www.amazon.com/CCM-Top-100-Greatest-Christian/dp/B0002XED4E>
 - c. http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_m/105-8894491-5213228?url=search-alias%3Dpopular&field-keywords=world+best+music&Go.x=0&Go.y=0&Go=Go
9. Take a small step into music ministry. Ask Him for opportunities to use music for ministry in your circles and community. How can you use music throughout your day or week to develop a deeper,

fuller walk with God? How does music keep your heart clean and strong? How does music challenge your motives?