



## **With One Voice**

### ***[A Photographer's Calling: Virginia Dixon]***

#### **Synopsis**

A professional photographer shares how she was led to pursue this art form and how she integrates a Christian world view with her artistic calling.

#### **Prepare the Soil**

Before viewing *A Photographer's Calling*, open with a time of prayer, asking God to show you what He wants to do in this area of your life. After praying, start the discussion with these questions.

1. How did photography play a role in your family when you were growing up?
2. Do you have a favorite family photo album?
3. Which photographs have left a strong impression on you and why?
4. Why is photography a good place to start in developing a new artistic talent?
5. How can photography be a way to change someone's point of view? As you look through the lens of your art, do you ever see your point of view changing? How?

#### **Plant the Seed**

Play the video: *A Photographer's Calling*

#### **Cultivate the Heart**

On assignment in the past:

1. When you think about Jesus's time on earth, which are the most important "snapshots" that brought about social change and spiritual transformation?
2. What photographs of Jesus in action would you have taken if you had lived back then? If you were

a disciple like John?

3. Go through the Gospel of John and pick two or three. Examples: calling the disciples, one of the healings, confronting the Pharisees.

4. What do the gospels tell you about Jesus' point of view and the writer's point of view?

5. Read the following scripture:

a. John 3:16-17 and Romans 5:12-17

What was God's plan to remedy the world's fallen condition?

b. Psalm 100:5

How can photography do this? How can photography best illustrate the biblical themes of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation hope?

c. Psalm 145:4

Can you think of some present-day photographs that will do this for generations to come? How have they shaped our culture? Examples include movie posters, book covers or CD covers, DVD covers.

## Grow

Apply what you've learned. Use the following questions and suggestions to discuss the video clip.

1. Virginia speaks about how God changed her career plans. If this has happened to you, what did you learn about Him and His plans for you?

2. Virginia shared her burden for social issues and how God changed the vehicle He would use in her life to bring about change. Has God ever done this with you? How? What did you learn?

3. She spoke of receiving a gift, enjoying it and not losing relationship with the origin of that gift- the Creator of the gift. In which areas do you struggle and succeed in doing this? How can you grow the gifts you have been given by God?

4. Pick a photographer who has made a significant impact socially and study them. How did their work change the world? Good resources are "The Best of" issues of Time and National Geographic as well as books on the history of photography.

4. Explore the world through the lens for a few days. What subject matter attracts you and why? Share your images with a photographer you admire and share your appreciation of their work..

5. Start a collection of photographs in the form of magazine or newspaper clippings, postcards and add some of your own photographs. Add to it as you find photographs that speak to you and maybe jot down some notes on each.

6. Go to some photo gallery shows to learn about artists in your city.