



With One Voice

[A Painter's Calling: Wayne Forte]

Synopsis

A renowned visual artist shares how he began painting, the purpose God has for his art and the importance of worshipping God at the canvas before him.

Prepare the Soil

Prior to viewing *A Painter's Calling*, open with a time of prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how He wants to use art in your life. Once you have prayed, lead your group in the following questions:

1. What are some of your favorite paintings? How have they had a strong impact on you?
2. What are your thoughts on art and the church?
3. How has painting (or other artists' paintings) enriched your life?

Plant the Seed

Play the video: *A Painter's Calling*

Cultivate the Heart.

Dig deeper with the following scriptures:

1. Exodus 35:4-39 Do you think art is important to God? What forms are mentioned?
2. Exodus 36:1-6 What does an artist need? How does Philippians 4:18-19 relate to this?
3. Psalm 8:3,27-36 How does this passage influence your thinking about God as the craftsman of all creation?
4. Genesis 1:26-27,
2:7,21 -22 and Isaiah

- 64:7-9 Close your eyes and imagine being there during these biblical accounts.
5. 1 Chronicles 29:1-30 Can you put yourself in Solomon's shoes and guess how he felt being the one to build God's temple? Do you ever feel insecure about your art?
What helps you overcome insecurity?
6. Ephesians 2:8-10 Anyone's pride, including artists, can lead to a downfall. What does this verse say about being God's workmanship/craftsmanship created for His purposes? How does this make you feel? What would you say to an insecure artist about this verse?
7. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 How does this verse relate with what Wayne said? Does this passage help you gain strength and confidence for future possibilities work with your art? What steps do you have to take to make this happen?

Grow

1. Apply what you've learned. Use the following questions and suggestions to talk over the themes in the video.
 - a. Do you ever wonder if God really uses art to reach those who don't believe in Him? Those in the church?
 - b. Wayne says he sees his art as a form of worship or prayer. Have you ever thought of it that way?
 - c. He shared that his focus is painting within the church. How can his advice about how to handle a difficult reception within the church help you?
 - d. Do you think it is better to work on art alone or in community as Wayne mentioned? Are they both equally important? What are the benefits or downsides of both?
2. Get to know your favorite visual artist. Why did or do they create art? Did they create alone or in community or both? Start with the internet, library and museums. Many movies have been made about famous artists like the excellent The Impressionists series by BBC. Study different periods of art history and see what you discover about artists working alone and/or in community.
3. Find a mentor and be a mentor. Ask God to put someone in your path whose work you can admire and who can encourage you in this area. Find ways to thank and encourage them. Offer to pray for them.
4. Nurture in small steps. Ask God for opportunities to use visual art for worship in private and in the community.