

## Vision & Vales Sermon Series

**Values:** Scripture, Prayer, Generosity, Diversity, Community, **Creativity**, Outreach, Justice, Love.

**We Value Creativity:** We are committed to affirming the role of the imagination and the arts in our community and to exploring and expressing the life of the Holy Spirit in new and fresh ways.

### Questions for conversation...

1. How do you define creativity? How do you see creativity unfolding in your life? In what ways would you call yourself creative?
2. What do you think Genesis 1 & 2 tell us about creativity? What do you think it means for us to be created in the likeness of God when it comes to creativity?
3. Read Exodus 31:1-11 and Exodus 35:20-25  
What jumps out as you read the passages? Why do you think God cared so specifically about the construction of the Tabernacle? What role do you think aesthetics should play in the life of the church?
4. Read and discuss the following quote by Makoto Fujimura. What role does creativity play in telling the story of God?

If theology is a way to illumine how God is to be understood, then visual theology is illumination of the Biblical words as expressed by God. Do images reveal what words cannot? The Word of God is generative, and gives birth to faith. Illuminations, then, should do the same.

I am not arguing here to replace or compete with the Word of God at all. One can have the Word of Life at the center of discussion, and the role of visual design as the lens to see through. The Word of Life gives birth to sensory experiences and intuitive, tacit knowledge.

Visual theology is energized by the Holy Spirit and happens when we engage the scriptures with the fullness of our imaginations.

5. Read the lyrics to the Sara Groves song "Add to the Beauty". What jumped out as you read? What do you think it means to 'add to the beauty'? In what ways can Emmanuel (and you) use creativity to tell a better story?

"God has invited us, as mere human beings, to add to the beauty of his plan and creation."

## Add to the Beauty (Sara Groves)

We come with beautiful secrets  
We come with purposes written on our hearts, written on our souls  
We come to every new morning  
With possibilities only we can hold, that only we can hold

Redemption comes in strange places, small spaces  
Calling out the best of who we are

And I want to add to the beauty  
To tell a better story  
Shine with the light  
That's burning up inside

It comes in small inspirations  
It brings redemption to life and work, to our lives and our work  
It comes in loving community  
It comes in helping a soul find it's worth, a soul find it's worth

Redemption comes in strange places, small spaces  
Calling out the best of who we are

And I want to add to the beauty  
To tell a better story  
Shine with the light  
That's burning up inside

And this is grace, an invitation to be beautiful  
And this is grace, an invitation

Redemption comes in strange places, small spaces  
Calling out our best

And I want to add to the beauty  
And I want to shine with the light  
That's burning up inside

Add to the beauty  
I want to tell a better story  
Shine with the light  
That's burning up inside