



ARTS MINISTRY INTERVARSITY

“God at Work in the Arts” Track

Artists’ Track for COMPELLING

SCHEDULE AND SESSION NOTES

TRACK GOALS:

1. The environment created is one of freedom and vulnerability where students can respond creatively as they learn
2. That students walk away with an understanding of where the Scriptures talk about the arts and a Biblical worldview for the arts
3. Students grow to embrace God's vision for them as artists vs. the World's view of their art
4. Students grow in identity and freedom as artists through placing their gifts on God's altar in worship vs. worshipping their own craft or living in fear
5. Students are given helpful risks/actions to take as prophets and culture shapers in the world

FRIDAY EVENING – TRACK SESSION #1: 8:30PM-10:15PM

The Arts Created for Good

Bette Dickinson Leads

Session Goals:

1. *Introduction to the track (where are we headed) and staff/volunteers (who is here to help us along the way)*
2. *Create a helpful culture of freedom, vulnerability, and judgment/critique free*
3. *Create discussion-based atmosphere that gets students talking/thinking*
4. *Build trust and community among small group and large group*
5. *Students walk away valued as artists and knowing the track is a safe place to share*
6. *Introduce the idea of the 4 worlds and specifically how the arts were created for good*

8:30-8:35 Intro time: Introduce track and volunteers/staff

- Praying for you
- Setting the tone - freedom, space, permission, discussion format, judgment free
- God loves artists - movement of artists
- Prayer requests and panel questions

8:35-8:45 Get to know people (Small groups of 8 to 10 people)

- Share around your tables your name, major, and discipline



- Next, what burning questions do you have coming into this track?
- Share in table groups
- Share with the track

Session #1: Overview – Arts and Artists Created for Good

8:45-9:00 Introduce the Big Story

- To give you a picture of where we are headed in this track, we are going to walk through God's story and how our story as artists and the story we tell as artists fits into this
- **SLIDE 1** Big Story Picture – explain briefly
- We get to be a part of this grander narrative that resonates deeply beneath all of our stories. As artists, we have the privilege to live it, explore it, and cultivate it through our art
- As artists, most of us intuit this story already and we tell it often through our art. We tell of a world that is beautiful, but broken, and talk often about suffering but with hope that there will one day be a day with no more sorrow and pain
- Goal in our time together is to know God's story, to recognize how we as artists and the arts fit into it, and how that changes the way we think about our art and create
- For tonight, we are going to focus on the arts and how they were designed for good

9:00-9:15 How do you define art? What is its purpose?

- Share in pairs
- Share in table groups
- Share with the track
- Communication, deeper things/emotions

9:15-9:30 Are the arts generally valued in North American culture? Why or why not?

- Share with the track
- Many of us are very familiar with this experience – we have been beat up as artists in our culture, striving to get by, wondering whether or not we are ever going to “make it,” we feel the damage of the lack of vision/value for the arts and also the lack of creativity/impact in how they were designed to be
- It leaves us wondering whether or not our work could really make an impact on the world, whether or not it is even important, and therefore whether or not we as artists are important.
- And some of us may be wondering too, what is God's view of the arts, and does He see that it has value?

9:30-9:45 Watch clip from Seabiscuit – Before we get into that, I think this clip will help us to identify our experience: This story is about a jockey who is too heavy to succeed, a trainer who has never succeeded, an owner who has been terribly hurt, a small horse with a strange limp - all are told they can't "make it"

We are all a little bit like Seabiscuit – “They got him so screwed up running in a circle, he forgot what he was born to do. He just needs to learn how to be a horse again.”

We would like to do that together in this track – a time away from running in circles to figure out what we were born to do. A space to be an artists again – free to live as we were created. So what



were we born to do? What is God's original intent for the arts and us as artists?

9:45-10:10 The arts, and artists created for good:

Like Seabiscuit, we as artists are wired a little differently. Sometimes the world doesn't get us, why we have to spend so much time in the practice room, suggesting that we ought to get a "real job." We wonder whether or not we are going to "make it" in the arts world and it can make us wonder whether or not our creativity – a blessing or a curse. Living in the broken world, sometimes creativity can feel like a burden. But let's see what God has to say about us as artists and the arts. We can only do so by starting at the beginning:

Slide "So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

-Genesis 1:27

God as Creator – we are created in His image as creative beings

"The first tasks given to Adam were cultural. During the naming of animals we are told that God was interested 'to see what he would name them,' indicating that God derived pleasure from Adams' creative acts...In our era biologists and zoologists actually do the naming of animals, but artists give names to moods, feelings, concepts and insights- and the 'names' aren't always in words." – Turner 66

Slide "We must accept that this creative pulse within us is God's creative pulse itself."

- Joseph Chilton Pearce

"Opening our souls to what must be made, we meet our maker."

-Julia Cameron, *The Artist's Way*

The concept we are given here in Genesis, is that God created us in His image, giving us His creative impulse, creative gifts, that He sees as "very good." We reflect more of who God is the more creative we become

Slide "Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

-Genesis 2:7

- The word for breath in Hebrew, Ruach is the same as "spirit"
- God placed His spirit in us in creation, and in the same way, we breathe His spirit back into the work we create
- Have you experienced a piece of art that made you feel alive – that drew emotions up within you that made you recognize you're more than just flesh and blood, but activated a piece of your soul too, so that you recognized there is a piece of you that is eternal?
- The purpose of art points to something deeper. Our modernistic world doesn't understand the value that the arts go deeper than the need for daily bread, water, and shelter – but communicate about what our souls long and ache for – beauty, truth, freedom, justice, love...these all point to God



Slide "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."

–Aristotle

- We as artists, are given an incredible task and calling – to point to the eternal things of this world –the things that will last far beyond our physical needs and desires. We are given the gift to breathe into this world the breath of life through what we create – allowing God’s ruach to touch hearts through our acts of creating. This is beautiful, and this is sacred.

10:10-10:15: Created for Good – Response Station:

- Students write the good things God has created – how are their gifts or they themselves as artists “good?” How are their gifts a blessing and not a curse?
- Celebrate you as artists and your gifts and praise Him for it:
- Identify the gifts God has given you or things about you that are good and made by the Lord. Write it on a sticky note and stick it and pin it around the painting

** Panel Questions Reminder**

SATURDAY MORNING – TRACK SESSION #2: 9:30AM-10:30AM

The Arts Created for Good and Damaged by Evil
Bette Leads (Beth playing softly on guitar during Quiet Time)

Session Goals:

1. *Students see God's view of the arts/artists in Scripture*
 2. *Students grapple with the difference between living art that God fills through our worship of Him (tabernacle) vs. dead art/idolatry (Golden Calf)*
 3. *Students wrestle with how to give their gifts to God as an offering (and get vision for what He can do with it)*
 4. *Sets up quiet time reflection/worship for students to process the ideas above*
- For reference on leading this discussion, see the IV Arts Disussion:
<http://vimeo.com/51320179>

Introduction

9:30-9:35 (5 min)

- Recap from last night – the arts created as good, the big story
- About me - journey as an artist – what is my purpose and call as an artist? Is it worth it? Can I make a difference? What does God think about my art?
- Biblical worldview of the arts vs. what we talked about last night - world's view
- Art used in the Bible – Jesus and parables, Psalms, 70% of Scripture is narrative
- Today we are going to look at the contrast between Art that is Created for Good and Art that is Damaged by Evil
- Set up: 2 works of art in Exodus

Part 1: Exodus 25:1-22

9:35-9:50 (15 min)



Context: The story of the nation of Israel moving from slavery to the promised land. Exodus 25 is the beginning of 6 chapters about the artistic elements that will make up the place of worship and the wardrobe of those who work there.... The context: Moses is on the mountain and God is giving him dictation about getting to the promised land, including the 10 commandments and the tent of meeting.

- (9:35-9:37) Read the passage to yourself
- (9:37-9:39) Read aloud. Close your eyes and imagine what it might have looked like.
- (9:39-9:45) Share in pairs: What surprises you? What strikes you? What kind of feelings does it evoke? What strikes you as interesting or odd or cool or weird?
- (9:45-9:50) Share as a large group
- **SLIDE:** Picture

Part 2: Exodus 32:1-6

9:50-10:10 (20 min)

Context: While Moses is up on the mountain receiving these commands from God about the tabernacle

Read this second section and compare the two works of art, the box and the calf.

- 9:50-10:00 Together as a table, make a list of similarities and differences
- 10:00-10:10 Debrief whole room

Similarities:

- act of worship
- expensive, ornate. Gold
- Both re-appropriating materials
- People gave from their material possessions to create them

Differences:

- Specific parameters vs. General
- Complex vs. Simple
- Community creation vs. Aaron's creation
- Directed by God vs. Directed by Man
- God dwells within vs. "is" god
- Freewill offering vs. forced offering (32:2)
- Took a long time to create vs. quickly done
- Offerings brought to God vs. offering brought to leader
- God talks to them through it vs. empty

10:10-10:20 Teaching Points:

Tabernacle: Art Designed for Good

- What do we learn from this passage about God's Design for the arts?
 - Generosity, self-giving, serving, alive, points to Him, full of His spirit
 - Valuable, given great attention and effort
 - Collaborative effort between God, us, and each other
 - An act of worship and a freewill offering



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- God is inviting us to give to Him with what we're prompted to
 - 1st step: give whatever your heart prompts you to give to me**
 - 2nd step: I will take that stuff and make a tabernacle**
 - 3rd step: because I want to dwell with you**
- Self-giving offering, worship - Art that He would live and dwell and live inside of. When God dwells within our art, it comes alive.
 - The offering, the way it was created so that God could dwell with them. Living, full of God's presence and power, impacting the whole community. God is so much bigger than the idols we create. Do we want to create work that confines or work that expands?
 - Art that is a place for God to dwell with people vs. art that is a substitute for God

The Golden Calf: Art Damaged by Evil

- What do we learn from this passage about how the arts can be damaged by evil?
 - Created out of fear, worshipped as God, self-serving,
 - Idolatry: obsessive, blind devotion to something
 - We go to God for life, provision, identity, purpose, fulfillment, etc. Idolatry is turning to anything or anyone but God for these things
 - **Idolatry:** if I could just get that part, get that chair, get into that show, get that review, nail that performance...then...vs. God, this is yours and so am I - so help me to point to you and heaven through my work and may you use this to touch and transform people...
 - Sometimes when we make an offering, we have to let go of control of it and wait for God to use it – risky
 - The Israelites were afraid because they thought they were alone without a leader, so they made a calf, dead, to lead their lives.
 - It's taking art into our own hands and responding out of fear to meet our own needs or seek something else besides God to meet our needs- When the arts students saw how long God was taking providing for them...they took every GIG because they thought they had to, they forgot God and his ability to work through them so they lived as constant slaves to their performance, compromised their integrity in the shows they performed and how they interacted with their peers...
 - The Golden calf was probably beautiful, but it was dead. It couldn't walk, talk, heal anyone, etc.
 - Who led you out of Egypt and slavery? Who provides for your needs? Who leads you into the promised land? Not your craft, not even your hard work, God alone
- It is art that stops there. You can see it and feel it when you look at art like this
- Good art leaves room for interpretation, takes risk, allows God to move through it – poor art takes away this tension
- Ex of landscape pieces and GRTS pieces
- Worshiping God through our craft vs. worshipping our craft
 - Am I willing to give my art to God as an offering so He can dwell in me and through it? What are the risks – but what could happen as a result?

Part 3: Exodus 31:1-6

10:20-10:25 (5 minutes)



- Set up: Let's read about the artists who are called to do this work
- Read aloud
- Only Aaron and his sons (priests) and B&O (artists) are mentioned by name on this mountain
- Called (chosen) - Obedience
- First of whom it is said "filled with my Spirit"
- **Filled with the Spirit to make work filled with God's presence**
- **Equipped** w/ the Holy Spirit and with everything they needed to do the work God was asking them to do
- **Community** – Given other helpers to do this task
- Difference between B&O and Aaron – called, obedience, worship vs. fear and pressure
 - Examples of people who lived lives of worshipping God through their craft - more whole, more joy, more fulfilled, more excellent. Vs. those who worship their craft: harried, stressed, slaves to their performance, controlling.
- Idolatry is forbidden because humanity is meant to be God's image in the world
- You are all Bezalels and Oholiab! God's ambassadors and carriers of God's presence in the world - when you worship your craft, you desecrate the temple of God
- We are God's art - Paul calls us living stones God is making into a human temple - God's workmanship, his masterpiece. He is making something beautiful out of us.
- What does it look like to be filled with God's Spirit, worshipping him through your craft instead of worshipping your craft?
- Honoring ourselves vs. honoring God
- Something happens in the spiritual realm when we worship God through our craft – it impacts the atmosphere around us and the people around us
- As you live this out, be filled with the Spirit as artists and make art that is a seat for God's presence in the world. Ex of landscape work
- 10:25-10:30 Read passage from Anne Lamott's book called "Traveling Miracles"
-Here's an example of how this can happen.

Quiet Time Break 10:30am – 11:00am

Quiet time questions:

- What is the potential of my art to be a seat for God's presence?
- How am I tempted to use my art as a substitute for God? Is there anything about my craft that I'm turning to for fulfillment, purpose, provision, etc. instead of God?
- Does my art look more like the tabernacle or the Golden Calf (who am I worshipping through my art)?
- How am I tempted to use my art as a substitute for God?
- As I do my craft, am I motivated by a sense of obedience to the call God has on my life by fear?
- How can I give my art to God? What are my next steps?
- Feel free to share at your table, pray for one another.

Response Station: Golden Calf

- Get paper from the Golden Calf Station and write down what has been an idol



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SATURDAY MORNING - TRACK SESSION #3: 11:00AM –

12:30PM Bianca Washington Leads (Worship 12:00-12:30) *The Arts Damaged by Evil and Restored for Better*

Session Goals:

1. Students learn the difference between basing their identity on their performance vs. letting their performance be an outflow of their personhood
2. Students get ideas on how to do this practically

Ministering to artists: "Pyramid talk"

See IV Arts Discussion Video for how this is led: <http://vimeo.com/50546876>

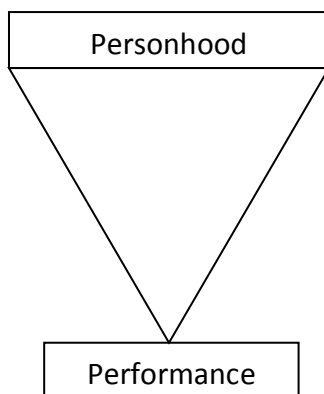
11:00-12:00 Pyramid Talk:

- We'll talk about identity as artists
- Ground rules: let's be honest and vulnerable with each other as we discuss
- How do we get off the performance treadmill? We artists often tend to be sensitive, and talking about our identity relates to talking about our hearts.
- Today's discussion is about protecting ourselves and our hearts.
- Let's first talk about our dreams. What would you be doing if you didn't have to talk about money? Discuss in Small groups.

Draw Diagram on left and ask questions on right

"World's Plan"

- The world says that life is unsteady
- Life is like an upside down pyramid (think of an Egyptian pyramid)
- Who we are as a person rests on our performance
- If I have a bad day, it makes me a bad person



How would you feel if you were in this kind of lifestyle? Do you know someone like this? Discuss in small groups.

Examples: perfectionist, unsure, worn out, unstable, frustrated, insecure, captive, dependent on performance, etc.

This isn't just our careers, people over here end up alone because they are always thinking of themselves

Draw Diagram on left and ask questions on right



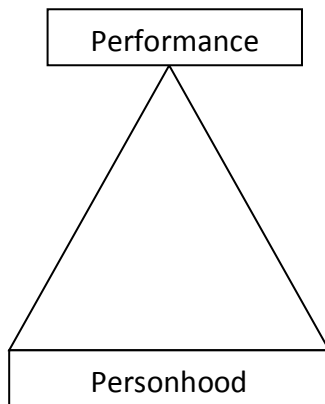
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Wouldn't it be wonderful if when the winds come to not destroy me? Wouldn't it be wonderful if life could be this stable?

The performance is the overflow of my life. I want the performance to be separate from who I am as a person. My identity is secure in this lifestyle.

"God's Plan"

How would you feel if you were in this kind of lifestyle? Discuss in small groups.



Share in large group and write on triangle.

Examples: Satisfied, confident, free, fulfilled, motivated, purpose, humble, peace

Let's call out together what is true of this worldview and compare it with the other. People on the left pyramid (top) never can be creative because they always have to be right. If my performance is bad, I don't want to say I'm bad.

Teaching Points: People on the right are able to take risks. The person on the right who is giving away their performance is much more peaceful and is able to be creative and take risks. The person on the left is often ALONE (write on triangle) they can't be honest and open with others vs. the person on the right the person can have COMMUNITY (write on right triangle). Community is beautiful because once you're in, you don't have to audition.

Write: SLAVE on left triangle (they are a slave to their performance)

ex: How many sketches did Michaelangelo make before he started the cistine chapel?

Write: FREE and CREATIVE on right triangle

Here's the burning question: how do you get from one side to the other? Discuss in table groups, then share as a large group.

Ex: Putting what's important at the base. Fall over and set right side down.

The way we do this is by giving this to the practical Jesus, "Come and transform my life." This is why Jesus said the kingdom of heaven has come to earth. Jesus is in the business and taking my mistakes and turning them into the words on the right side "hope, secure, solid, etc."

Personal story about this shift. Striving after control, vanity, power, etc.

How can we practically recognize where/when these are coming up?

Thinking of where you're at in this scale, let's invite God to change it. Let's invite God to help us see our performance as a way to bless others.



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Take some time to reflect on these questions w/ reflective worship music:

- What am I not giving to God now, and am I willing to?
- Who am I creating for? Am I creating for God or creating for others?
Come back together:
- How do you give away your artwork?

Worship 12:00-12:30 (Beth Rowsey)

Response Station:

- Taking what was written as our idols/golden calf and surrendering it/nailing it to the cross
- Is there anything related to the pyramid talk that we want to tie in here? How do we connect the golden calf to the pyramid?

Lunch: 12:30

OPTIONAL TRACK TIME: *Planting an Arts Ministry 3:00 – 3:45 Conference Room 62*

Free time until 4:00

SATURDAY AFTERNOON – TRACK SESSION #4: 4PM-5:45PM **The Arts Restored for Better and Artists Sent to Heal** ***Dave Biskie, Living as Salt and Light as Artists***

Session Goals:

1. *Students see the connection between Jesus' plan to restore the world for better and how it involves them as artists*
2. *Students understand their role as salt and light in the world as artists*
3. *Students have practical steps for moving forward in God's mission as "sent to heal."*

Set up for Response Time: *Salt and Light*

Chalkboard – write your name next to the action step you are choosing in each category

CHOOSE one in salt and one in light categories.

- Light a tea light candle if you want to commit to live as God's light in one of these three ways:
 - Living as our guide by practicing the 3 D's to help others take next steps toward Jesus
 - Invite someone into a GIG or share the Gospel with them; get the training you need for this
 - join with other Jesus followers in working together to transform your arts community; if needed, pray for and gather this group of partners



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- Pour salt in one of three jars if you want to live as salt by:
 - Make Jesus Lord over our artistic process: what we create, why we create, how we create
 - create art that positively impacts our audience and the world
 - shape the culture of the arts community you are in

Before responding, ask yourself “Am I actually going to do this? Here are the actions you identified already, the people you can influence and your next step.

SATURDAY EVENING – TRACK SESSION #5: 6:45PM-8:00PM *Reflection on the 4 worlds, Jess Leads*

Session Goals:

1. *Students have space to reflect and respond creatively through response stations*
2. *Students have space to share what they are learning with their small group or share their next steps/risks they are going to take*
3. *Students write down a couple questions they want answered on art and faith for the panel Sunday*

6:45-6:50 Set up for reflection

(5 minutes)

We want to give you a minute to creatively respond to God in worship through creating. We would like you to reflect on some of these questions and either journal or creatively respond through your own art form related to the following questions:

Options for Reflection Time:

- Interact with Response Stations
- Create/Respond in Worship through engaging in the music or creating something new
- Receive Prayer Ministry
- Journal reflective questions
- Pull out handout and take some time using the sheet Dave gave to think through the process of your art and/or how you're hoping to impact your audience through your work

Reflection Space: (music, reflection and create)

(45 minutes)

7:00-7:35 Reflective Music and Worship Songs: Beth

7:35- 7:55 Small Group Sharing

(20 minutes)

1.) Which side of the pyramid do you typically live on? In what ways do you want your life to look more like the right side up pyramid? (Community, freedom, connection to God, creativity, etc.)

2.) Share a piece you've been working on and ways you are starting to apply some of the concepts from the salt and light section to think about your art differently. Is there anything you're going to change about how you create or what you create based on this session?



3.) Which of those has tended to be the one you've done more naturally, salt or light, and of those, is there a specific way you need to live as salt or light in your department? (which actions did you choose?)

SG leaders: collect ideas for questions for panel discussion

7:55-8:00 Close in Prayer

(5 minutes)

SUNDAY MORNING – TRACK SESSION #6: 9:30AM-11:00AM

Reflection on the 4 Worlds

Bette Leads, Dave facilitates panel

Session Goals:

1. *Re-cap what we learned*
 2. *Give suggestions for next steps or ideas on how to move forward with arts ministry*
 3. *Students are given space to process and decide on next steps/ fill out commitment cards*
 4. *Students are able to ask questions and receive feedback from artists on art and faith*
- 9:30-9:40 Re-Cap what happened (10 min)
 - What is art? What is the world's view? What is God's view?
 - When we give our gifts to him, he can make a tabernacle and dwell within it
 - Personhood not resting on performance (combating temptations in our culture to make our craft or others expectations an idol)
 - Salt and Light
 - How can I express the word God is giving me in a way that draws them to ponder and consider God's truth?
 - What's next? Who do you need to share this with?
 - What risks is God calling you to take? With your art? With people?
 - Prayer in SGs
 - 9:40-9:55 Practical application: Filling out commitment cards (15 min)
 - 9:55-10:00 Introduction to InterVarsity Arts ministry (5 min)
 - 10:00-11:00 Panel Discussion (Bianca, Bette, Beth, Jess, and Dave) (60 min)