

# Do Something Beautiful

## Week 3 | Do Something Beautiful

### BOTTOM LINE

The Holy Spirit came upon God's people in the early church and united them. The Spirit of God is needed to come upon His people and unite them as a beautiful and righteous community who does God's work together.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

To see ourselves as beautiful creations and to consider how we might take God's beauty into our context to bring change to the world.

### SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:43-47, John 17:21-23

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** We are in the midst of one of the most connected but disconnected and isolated times in history. Would you agree? Why or why not?
- Read Acts 2:43-47 and Discuss:**
  - What inspires, excites, and encourages you about this passage? Is there anything in these verses that makes you leery, suspicious, or uncomfortable?
  - The description of the way this new family of believers cared for one another seems quite radical. Is it outside the question for our modern-day church to think about selling our property or possessions to help someone in need?
  - Have you ever witnessed someone going to great lengths to care for someone else's needs? How did it make you feel?
  - Where/when have you experienced a vibrant spiritual community like described in this passage?
- Read John 17:21-23 and Discuss:**
  - John is documenting a prayer that Jesus was lifting up for future believers. Think about that. How does it feel to know that Jesus was specifically praying for you?
  - Why does Jesus pray for unity among believers?
  - In a world that appears to be more divided than ever, categorizing everyone into "us and them", do you believe there is a way for the body of Christ to honor Jesus' prayer and demonstrate unity? What are some practical ways you envision this being lived out?

York Moore writes, "There is a power in the awe-inspiring expressions of the universe, a power amplified through our shared human experience. A shared experience brings people together like nothing else!"



## TRY THIS

*Take time to reflect on the past three weeks of this series and pray for God to reveal His plan for you to "do something beautiful". Be courageous to ask Him if there is anything getting in the way of that plan. Journal what you hear from God and be sure to tell someone then make an action plan to move in that direction.*

# Do Something Beautiful

## Week 2 | The Magic of Jesus

### BOTTOM LINE

God created beauty all around us and his people are called to plant beauty in every context they find themselves. The only proper response to beauty is worship. When people see beauty rooted in Christ, they will see Christ.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

To see ourselves as beautiful creations and to consider how we might take God's beauty into our context to bring change to the world.

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 19:1-4, Ephesians 2:8-10

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** Think about something beautiful you saw or experienced this week. What made it beautiful to you? How do you see Christ reflected in the beauty?
2. **Read Psalm 19:1-4 and Discuss:**
  - a. If we're paying attention, nature can display God's majesty in a way that stirs up reverence and worship in our spirit. Describe a time when you were overcome with the beauty of something in nature and explain how it made you feel.
  - b. There is a quote that has been accredited to St Francis of Assisi. "Preach the gospel wherever you go, when necessary, use words." How might we "preach the gospel" without using words?
3. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Discuss:**

When someone offers you a gift, you wouldn't ask how much you owe them for it. In the same way, we accept God's grace and do not owe anything. If that is true, then doing good works can not earn us any more favor than we already have. So what is our motivation to do good works?
4. When people see themselves as beautiful creations and then see that they can take God's beauty into their context, the world is changed. Take time to look at each of the following questions and ask God to open your eyes to ways that you can paint God's beauty in your context. Share with the group.
  1. Where is sorrow impacting your immediate community?
  2. What is the source of the sorrow in your immediate community?
  3. What is needed to meet the needs of those who are suffering?
  4. What would beauty look like to those who are suffering around you?
  5. What one beautiful thing can you do to enter into the sorrow of those around you?
  6. What will doing something beautiful cost you?
  7. What can you do to prepare to pay the price for doing something beautiful?

York Moore writes, "Beauty is the font that God uses to write the story of everything... Beauty can captivate us at a soul level.... Beauty is most striking when it stands against the backdrop of the ordinary and ugly. The beauty effect then is not a luxury, but an important part of flourishing, of living into the story of everything."

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## TRY THIS

*Take at least one action step this week from what God revealed to you in the above questions. Come to group next time prepared to share about it.*

# Do Something Beautiful

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## Week 1 | Ordinary to Extraordinary

### BOTTOM LINE

God is offering for all people to come to the bounty of His table and to be part of a bigger story. It's a story rooted in His righteous work here and around the world. He needs his people to do this work.

### GOAL OF THE GROUP

We will take a look at God's story, our story, and how we are made to be people of righteousness doing His righteous and bountiful work. We will discuss how we can each be a part of making the world right this week.

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1-3, Matthew 25:31-40

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share: Tell about a time you were able to demonstrate God's mercy through the act of meeting a tangible need for someone. (or you could share about receiving God's mercy through others)
2. **Read Isaiah 55:1-3 and Discuss:**
  - a. If these scripture verses express the heart of God, that those who do not have money are invited to eat and drink, what do you think that means for the church?
  - b. Verse 1 seems to refer to literal food and drink. What do you notice about verses 2-3? Do you think these verses are referencing literal food or something else?
3. Take a few minutes to process the following questions and ask God to reveal personal responses in your spirit, then share your thoughts with the group:
  - Who are the "unembraceable" peoples in my context?
  - What are the injustices or limitations they face?
  - What would it look like for them if these wrongs could be made right?
  - What could bounty look like in their lives?
  - What one practical thing can I do to embrace them personally?
  - What one practical thing can I do to introduce them to God's story today?
  - How could doing something right help me know God more about who God is?
4. What is one thing you will do this week to help make the world right by being a part of God's righteous work?

"A world nearly right is not enough. God desires us and the world around us to be made completely right with Him. Our deepest suspicions and demands are that the world be made right right now! This is more proof that we are part of a big story, a story that encompasses everything around us. In our everyday longing for things to be right, we see how we were made for a perfect world." York Moore



## TRY THIS

*Read Matthew 25:31-40 several times this week and ask God to open your heart to any way He would like to move in your life to show love to "the least of these". If any action steps come to mind, journal and then share with someone as a way to be accountable to action.*