



AUTHENTIC SPACE

Worshipping a Creative God: Discussion Guide Questions

Searching for Space: Prior to the gathering, instruct participants to go online to view Pastor Mindi Ferguson's portion of the panel discussion *"Engaging with Young Adults in Ministry"* presentation at the 2014 Susquehanna Annual Conference.

- 1) As you watch Mindi's presentation, consider how you see God in your day to day activities.
 - Choose one day in the past week and reflect on times when God blessed your day, helped you manage a difficult situation, gave you an opportunity to love someone, and asked something of you.
 - Consider how being able to recognize those moments and share them with others may be an avenue of creativity for God.

Find Some Space: Start each gathering by asking everyone to share their thoughts with the group.

- 1) After everyone has arrived, give each individual a piece of paper with 30 circles drawn in it (*handout at the end of the discussion guide*). Instruct the group that they will have two (2) minutes to fill in as many of the circles as they can with whatever they like. They must do this individually, without consulting anyone else. Do not put any restrictions or qualifiers on the drawings.
- 2) After two minutes, ask everyone to stop drawing. Take a few moments to compare drawings: note differences, find similarities, how many people combined the circles to make one picture, who filled the most circles, etc. As you are comparing, discuss the ease or difficulty of the task. Consider together how creativity influences the completion of this activity.

Open with the prayer written by your group during the first session of the series.

Measure The Space: Participants will receive an overview of the subject and create a baseline for discussion.

1) Watch Chapter 1 of "Worshipping a Creative God"

- Divide the group into two equally numbered teams. Explain that everyone will be completing the circle activity again. *However, this time, teams will be competing to uniquely fill as many circles as possible.* After three (3) minutes, teams will compare drawings, and the team with the greatest number of circles filled with unique drawings wins.

- How did making the activity more complicated impact creativity and the generation of unique ideas?
- What impact did collaboration have on overall "productivity"?
- How could collaborative creativity enhance communal worship?

- Ask each participant create a list of elements that they believe must be included in a worship service. Once everyone has completed their list, ask each participant to share his or her list.

- Would it be possible to include everything everyone listed in every worship service? Why or why not?
- Think of each of the items you listed as a circle that needs to be filled. How could we fill these circles in a way that would create a more holistic worship picture?
- How could collaborative creativity change the worship dynamics in our congregation?

Furnish the Space: Participants will more deeply consider the dynamics of young adult ministry, especially its variable nature.

1) Watch Chapter 2 of "Worshipping a Creative God"

- Where have you experienced God in the secular world?
- How does expecting to only experience God in church or at church gatherings limit God's ability to work in our lives?
- How might expecting God to be present only in church impact a non-believers desire to get to know God?
- How can participating in "secular activities" (listening to popular music, playing video games, watching popular TV, reading trending blogs), help prepare you to build relationships with individuals outside the church?

2) Brainstorm at least three secular activities that could be incorporated into worship in your congregation. (e.g.: *movie clips, poetry reading, basket weaving, etc.*)

- Make a list of the pro's and con's of including each of these secular elements in worship.
 - How would our congregation benefit from including some secular elements?
 - Who would feel more welcome in our services with these inclusions? Who would feel less welcomed with these inclusions?
 - What new voices would be heard through the inclusion of different worship elements?
 - What are the potential dangers of "going secular"?

Use The Space: Participants are invited to take some form of action regarding young adult ministry.

1) Watch Chapter 3 of "Worshipping a Creative God"

- Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias, has referred to the Millennial Generation as *"a generation that listens with its eyes and thinks with its feelings."*

- Do you think this is an accurate characterization? Why or why not?
- If Millennials are the demographic that the church is seeking to engage more deeply, how does this world view impact worship structure?
- How do we speak God's word through visuals in worship?

- How do we build relationships through worship?
 - Why might an emphasis on relationships be appealing to young people?

- What are some elements we could add to worship that might help participants be more emotionally engaged?
 - Who are the creative people in our congregation that might have the gifts to help us think of new ways to fill in these circles?

- Have a volunteer read Deuteronomy 12:5-7.
 - What are our modern day “burnt offerings and sacrifices” that we offer God with rejoicing in worship?
 - How does seeing worship as a time for returning authentic offerings to God change how we plan, lead, and participate in worship?

Share The Space: *Participants are offered a challenge to complete before the next meeting.*

- 1) Read Psalm 150. Consider all the different ways in which you can offer praise to God.
 - What would you add to the list in Ps. 150?
 - How does praising God in a variety of ways shape your relationship with God?
 - How does praising God in a variety of ways shape your relationships with others?
(both Christians and non-Christians)

- 2) Think about ways your congregation could incorporate new and different acts of praise into the entire life of the church.

