

Background - Vox's Values

<Provide some context on why we're talking about Vox's Values.>

We are in the middle of a sermon series exploring the values of Vox. These values are meant to describe who we are in this season and who we hope to be as a community and individuals. They have risen to the surface over the course of our journey as a church. It is from these values of who we are, that should shape what we do and how we live. Vox's values include: Artistry, Posture, Empathy, Participation, Peculiarity and Mystery.

Artistry: Session 1 Objectives

Send out the link to the sermon podcast to your group ahead of time so everyone can get a chance to listen to the sermon on Artistry.

- <http://voxveniae.com/artistry/>

These objectives might be helpful in shaping and guiding the discussion to a healthy landing spot by the end of the night.

- Identify and affirm what creativity looks like for each individual (every person is uniquely creative)
- Understand the collaborative nature of creation and how many people have contributed to who we are
- Reflect on how judgement has an impact on our ability and desire to create and collaborate with God

Value of Artistry

Introduce the value statement of Artistry and if it's helpful for your group, reflect on the Scripture passage in Genesis 2.

Read the value statement for Artistry to the group.

Artistry. We are a community of makers. We live into God's resemblance of artistry that was envisioned in the garden. The ultimate act of creativity is God's redemption of the world back to its original vision. We're invited by the Gardener to garden again. The narrative that some people are creative and some are not is false. We are all artists, makers and creators made in the image of God. (Gen 1).

Read/Reflect on Genesis 2:8-12,18-25

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Reflection on Artistry

Spend some time reflecting the value of Artistry. This can be a time to reflect on the value statement, the Scripture passage and the sermon podcast.

- 1. How does the value of Artistry connect or not connect with you?**
- 2. How have you experienced or seen this value demonstrated in the Vox community? If not, where have you experience it?**
- 3. Was there anything that stood out for you in the Artistry sermon?**

Definition of Creativity

Many of us have a specific definition of creativity and it may limit who or what we think is creative. Spend some time talking about how creativity is viewed/understood and how each of us has the capacity to create in our own unique way.

4. What does creativity mean to you or look like for you? Is there a standard of creativity?

5. If you don't feel creative, why is that? What are the barriers to creativity? What limits our ability to create?

This is an opportunity to talk about how judgment impacts our ability to be creative. Possibly shame and what our culture emphasizes as being creative.

6. What would you define as your acts of creativity?

This is an opportunity for each person to identify what creativity and artistry looks like in their own life and context. You can reference the Acts of Creativity list from the sermon in the appendix for ideas.

Collaboration

God's model of artistry and creation is one of collaboration with His creation (e.g. giving Adam creative license to name all the animals). Sometimes it's helpful to remember how our own lives and story have been a collaborative creation of God and others.

EXERCISE: Spend some time reflecting on all the collaborators who have contributed to your story and have everyone write a list of how they have impacted who you are and who you have become.

7. Who are the collaborators who have contributed to your story?

As people are comfortable, they can highlight a few individuals and share as much or as little as they would like.

Practice (Application)

Spend the remaining time reflecting on personal practice and what it means to create and collaborate with God's original vision for our lives and world.

8. What is an area or opportunity where you can practice and express the value of Artistry? (How does your Enneagram type impact your ability to practice Artistry?)

9. In what ways can Vox continue to foster and facilitate this value?

Prayer

Close your time in prayer for any reflections that came from this time of dialogue and also allow space for any personal areas that require care.

Appendix - Other Resources

Vox Sermon Podcast

- Vox Podcast - Values: Artistry (Gideon Tsang)
 - <http://voxveniae.com/artistry/>
- *Sermon Content*
 - 1. *Love beautifies*
 - *What area can you bring your affection in order to beautify (work place, neighborhood)*
 - 2. *Collaboration*
 - *Write down all the collaborators who have contributed to your story*
 - 3. *Creating without shame/judgment*
 - *Before your creative endeavor, take a moment to rest and don't leave until you're at a place where you know you are loved*
 - *Reflection Questions*
 - *What can you beautify with love this week?*
 - *How can you participate in an act of creation that scares you this next month?*

Acts of Creativity List (from Gideon's sermon)

- painting, drawing, singing, writing, parenting, book keeping, empathizing, gardening, cooking, listening, talking, making a website, teaching, educating, walk racing, writing, grading, connecting someone to a resource, designing, bee keeping, caring for animals, improving, joking, rehabilitating, whistling, texting, praying, texting, meditating, checking in on someone, biking, climbing, emailing, drafting, woodworking, photographing, boomeranging, farming, picking someone up, filming, swinging, thinking, sharing, kayaking, knitting, sewing, crocheting, coaching, playing, baking, spelunking, hiking, rapping, beat boxing, yoyoing, conversing, loving, laughing, filing, renovating, tiling, plumbing, hugging, high fiving, dancing, karaokeing

TED Talk

- Your Brain on Improv (Charles Limb)
 - https://www.ted.com/talks/charles_limb_your_brain_on_improv?language=en

Optional Exercises/Activities

- Play an improv game
 - One person stands in the middle and says they are some object
 - Next person connects to that person and says what there are in relation to that object
 - Each person continues until everyone has said what they are and how they relate to the "story/setting"
 - It is completely open-ended (no real rules)
 - The goal is to simply be or say the first thing that comes to mind to add to the creation
- Write a 108-word (or 55-word) Gospel
 - Creative exercise that reflects the uniqueness of each person's ability to articulate and capture God's story
 - You can download the instructions for this exercise here:
 - <https://voxveniae.box.com/shared/static/bnlwv4lrgtdaqjehhgjl532fronubdpp.zip>
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