

## Effective Discussions with Artists

### Atmosphere/Environment: Relaxed & Stimulating

#### What it is

- A non-judgmental place of safety where artists are free to be themselves and to care for one another
- A place where practical life issues (not just theory) are discussed; where the take-home value involves making artists' lives better

#### What it is not

- A class, church service, or just another meeting

### The Role of the Discussion Leader

#### To be

- A person who asks good questions and listens well

#### To create

- Opportunities for experiential learning by giving time for all to think artistically and with imagination
- A comfortable process where all can speak, where everyone's voice is honored and listened to

### Experiential Learning as Part of the Discussion

#### Introduce the Topic *Ask a hook question*

- The subject should be something important to daily life

#### Open with a Question *This should be something that anyone can easily answer. Emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, each person sharing what they are thinking is good enough*

- Allow quiet for a minute for personal thinking
- Transition into groups of two to share ideas and thoughts
- Call the group back together after a couple minutes
- Invite a few people to share what they just discussed

#### Discuss the Material *Hand out printed scripture, invite reading with fresh eyes, as if for the first time*

- Discuss surprises, questions, and observations in groups of two, then together as a group
- Ask more specific discussion questions about the material, repeating the sequence above. Look for questions that allow artistic-sensitive responses & feelings

#### End the Discussion *Individually record responses including pictures, poetry, music, journaling, etc. Share as a group.*

- Ask what people have learned about God & Jesus
- Ask what they have learned about themselves

## Example Arts Discussion & Experiential Learning

### Introduce the Topic with a Hook Question *Consider individually for 45 seconds*

- Have you ever been caught doing something wrong or has someone close to you made a big mistake? What happened afterwards?
- Pray for God's presence

### Opening Discussion Question *Discuss in groups of two, then together as a group*

- Have you seen stories about people "getting what they deserve" as a result of their bad choices in a Hollywood film, a novel, an Opera or a TV show?
- Examples: Cop shows, Les Misérables

### First Discussion Question *Hand out printed scripture, invite reading with fresh eyes, as if for the first time*

- John 7:53 - 8:11
- What would surprise you especially if you were walking to market in Jerusalem that day and saw this happen?

*Optional (additional 5-8 minutes): Read out loud a second time with pauses to allow for imagination. Discuss in groups of two, then together as a group, emphasizing there are no right or wrong answers*

- What might it have looked like?
- What surprises, questions, and observations come up?

### Discussion Questions *Stimulate imagination & experiential learning with these questions. Discuss in groups of two, then together as a group*

- Who is in the cast?
- How old do you imagine the woman was and why did you choose that age?
- How did she get into this awful position?
- How did the religious leaders find her?
- Where was the man?

*End with this important imagination question. Allow people to express outrage and feelings about the woman being humiliated and possibly killed just to prove a point*

- What was she wearing?

### Personal Application Discussion Questions

- Who do you identify with in this scene?
- What do you imagine that Jesus was feeling?

### Closing Questions *Invite students to individually sketch images, write or recall poetry or scripture, think of music or journal to record their reaction to this scripture*

- What have you just learned about the character of Jesus?
- What have you just learned about yourself?

### Close in Prayer