



theme: Art & Design #1 – Here for the Pleasure of God
materials: Bibles, songs about God as creator of heaven & earth
(either to sing or listen to)

welcome

Discuss one of the most difficult philosophical questions around: "What is Art?"
Make sure you cover this part of the question: "Why is Art Created?"

interact

"It is very little that we can know of the future state, but we may be quite sure that we know as much as is good for us. We ought to be as content with that which is not revealed as with that which is. If God wills us not to know, we ought to be satisfied not to know. Depend on it, He has told us all about heaven that is necessary to bring us there; and if he had revealed more, it would have served rather for the gratification of our curiosity than for the increase of our grace." (Spurgeon)

What do you *know* about heaven? What words or images would you use to describe it? Are there any songs you know that speak about the heaven God has created/is creating? (You may want to arrange singing some of these songs in your cell, or bringing some songs in to listen to.)

read

Read Revelation 4.

Why is God honoured and worshipped in this passage?

How is He worshipped? What is the significance of the elders laying down their crowns? Does that have anything to do with the way we worship?

Reflect on the unity displayed in this heavenly worship. How unified is our worship of God?

How is God revealed as a creative Artist in this passage?

Why did God create everything that has been created? (Compare this to your answers about Art in the Welcome section.)

Do you often think about the fact that you were created by God for His pleasure? If we remembered that all the time, how might that change the way we live our lives?

think

"There is a throne in heaven that no one can occupy but you, and there is a crown in heaven that no other head can wear but yours, and there is a part in the eternal song that no voice can ever compass but yours, and there is a glory to God that would be wanting if you did not come to render it, and there is a part of infinite majesty and glory that would never be reflected unless you should be there to reflect it! (Spurgeon)

What does this reflection of God's glory look like here and now? How can you, as part of God's creation, give God pleasure and reflect his glory in your life right now?



live & pray

1. See if you can find a 24/7 prayer room near to where you are, and spend some time in the room. These prayer rooms operate along the lines of Rev. 4:8b, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty – the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come." You can find information about local prayer rooms at www.24-7prayer.com
2. Visit an art gallery. Look at how lovingly and patiently the artists created their masterpieces. What does this tell you about God and His artwork?

useful resources

- Website: <http://www.enduringword.com/commentaries/6604htm> (Good commentary on this passage, and all Spurgeon quotes taken from this site.)
- Book: *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis
- CD: *Illuminate*, the David Crowder band. Some beautiful songs of worshipping the God of creation.

leader's guide

There are a number of symbolic elements in this passage. It is important to remember that symbols weren't meant to be taken literally, but were used to represent things in a way that could be visualized and understood.