

a  
Creative  
God  
the Visual Arts in Worship

a discussion guide  
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[TogetherInWorship.net](http://TogetherInWorship.net)

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Creating Belonging  
time 14:06-17:25



## Question

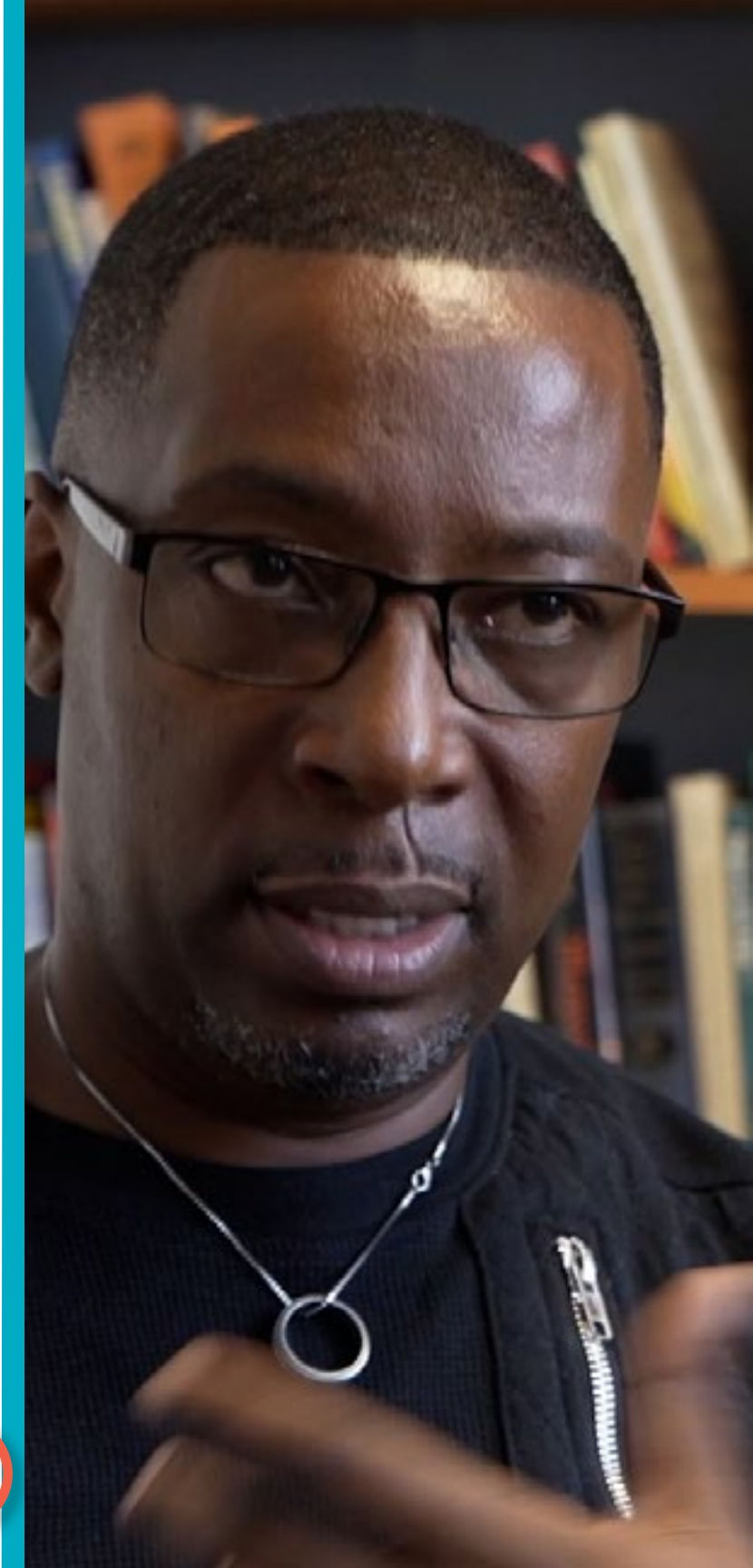
What caught your attention in the opening video clip?

“Some people say art is supposed to

**reflect reality,**

and that is not completely true. Sometimes art is supposed to point to a

**better reality.”**





## Question

Tell a story about a time when you caught a glimpse of God's promised reign of shalom.

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What images, sounds, smells, tastes, or sensations help you remember that experience?

“For me as a person of color, as a woman of color, I think that it is important to be authentic, to have an authentic worship space that is representing the people who are here ... people who look like me.”





## Question

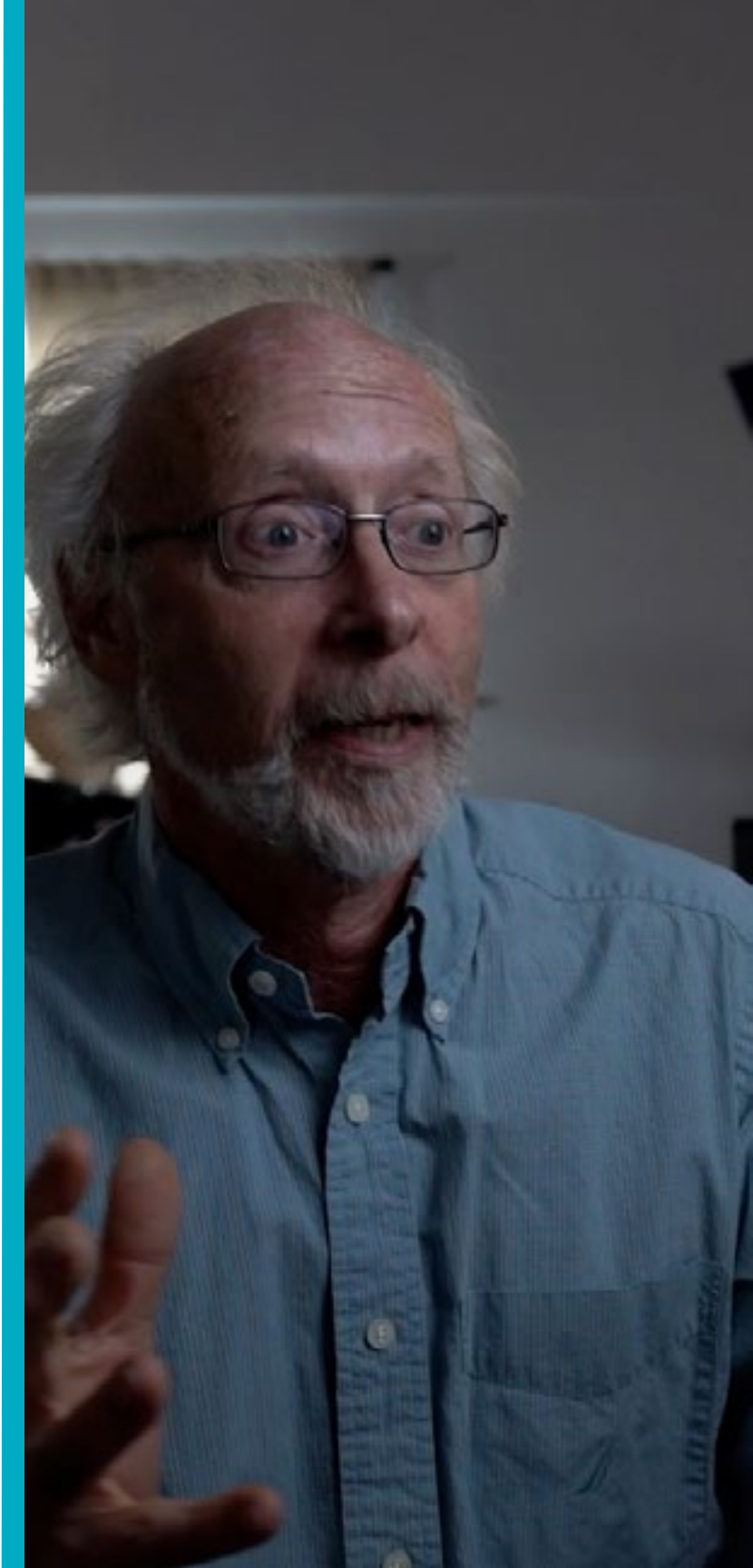
Who participates in your worshiping community?

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What visual representations of these people and their experience are present in your place of worship?

“The Body of Christ is best represented as a body that has different features to it.... The human gifting behind the **body** of Christ is **diversity....**

You need **more** than one kind of person **to reflect** the **image** of God.”





## Question

When you hear or say the phrase “the image of God,” what do you mean?

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What images are in your mind when you use this phrase?

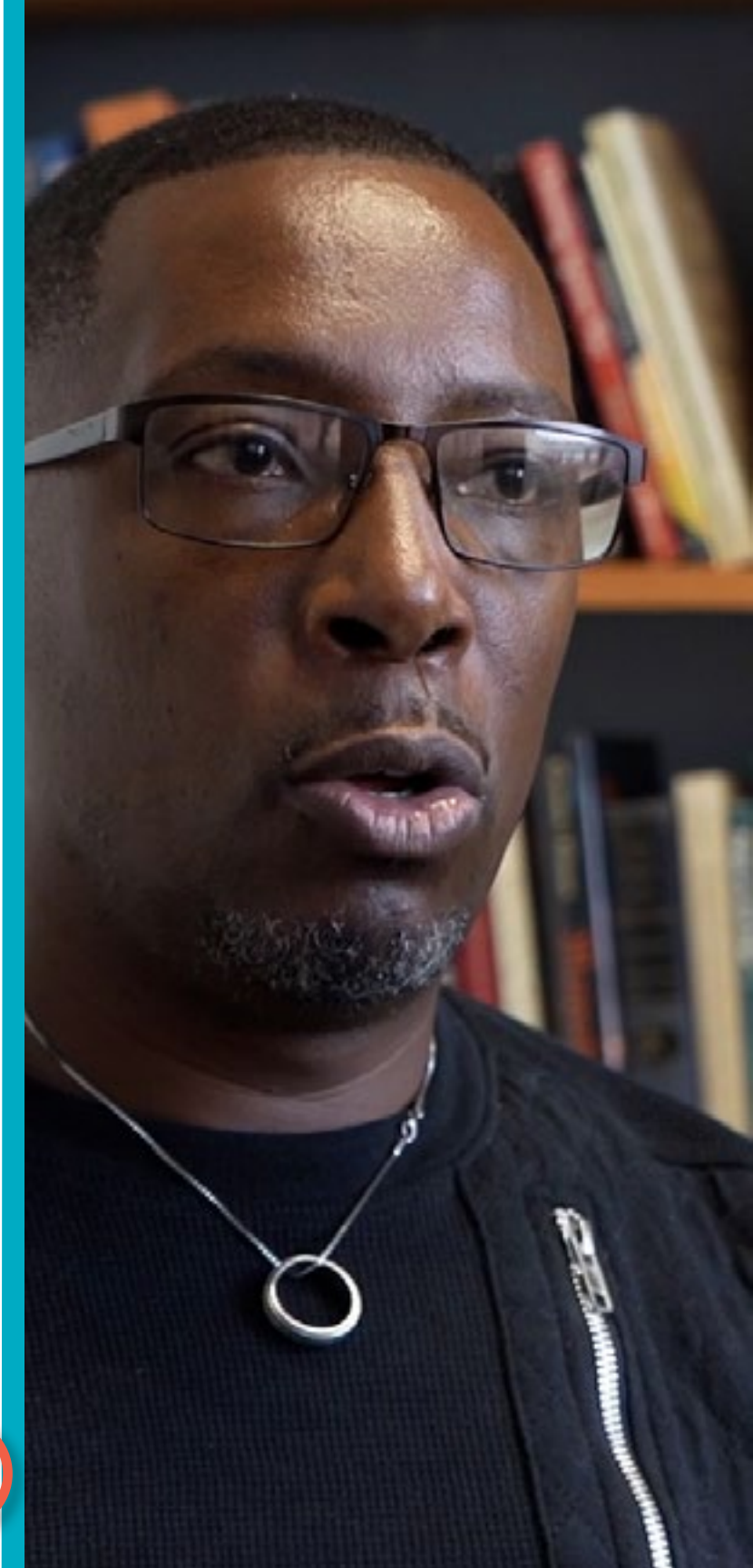


“As a pastor of **Outreach**, I have to be conscious of my presence and what my

**presence**

**communicates**

to people.”





Question

What experiences of presence have you had in your life?

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Tell a story about a sense of presence you have experienced in your worship place.

“One of our pieces is different colored people,  
different clothing and outfits in a circle

representing

difference but also  
representing that we are a

global body of Christ.”





What helps you imagine your worshiping community as part of the local and global body of Christ?

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What visual elements in your place of worship help you embrace this identity?



## Question

What in your discussion has stirred your imagination?

# Leader Comments/Ideas

1. Comparing reality as it is with a vision of a better reality connects with our earlier discussion about beauty and ugliness. Much about the contemporary moment is grotesque, yet beauty breaks in through the natural world and through human acts of love, peace, and justice. Christians live in the “already but not yet” reality of God’s promised reign of shalom, when all things are gathered into Christ and all tribes and people will worship God alone.

2. A place of worship that visually mirrors the cultures and ethnicities of those who worship there communicates a sense of welcome and belonging to regular participants and to those the community is called to welcome. Visually reflecting other social characteristics such as gender, class, age, and ability is a way of recognizing the variety of life experiences that participants are bringing to worship.

3. The theme of presence came up in the opening discussion about visual elements in the Laurel Street congregation’s worship place. Here, the speaker talks about the way his personal presence with others represents the congregation in the neighboring community. The experience of presence reveals something

that is unseen. Sometimes visual art has the potential to reveal what is unseen.

# a Creative God the Visual Arts in Worship

## Project Production

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