



# PASSION GROUPS






# INTRODUCING PASSION GROUPS

Can God use your passions to build his Kingdom? Most Christians are familiar with the idea that God has given his church spiritual gifts, to build up the body of Christ. But God has also given us passions, to help make sure the church is meeting all kinds of needs in the world. What are you passionate about? Have you ever considered that God may want to use what you are passionate about to reach people with his good news?

Passions help us focus our energy and gifts. As they are part of the way God created us, we need to take them into consideration when we reflect on how we can best serve God and share Him with others.

The idea of how God can use our passions was put to the test at a recent IFES conference. Over Easter 2017, the 10th IFES European Student Evangelism Conference — **PRESENCE** — took place in Germany. 1,700 students from over 45 nations gathered to worship God, and learn how His Presence in their lives can transform their own presence at universities all around Europe.

At PRESENCE, we introduced the concept of Passion Groups. Passion Groups zoom in on an area of interest or passion of students — whether gaming, hospitality, photography, history or science — and encouraged the students to consider how their passion could be used to reach people with the good news of Jesus. We thought it would be interesting to see how students reacted to this innovative approach for sharing the gospel, and we wanted to explore what fresh practices can flow out of this. Our aim was for students to discover that when they live out their passions for God's glory, these passions can become bridges to bring others closer to God's heart.



Barča from the Czech Republic attended the Passion Group on Video Gaming. Sharing her insights afterwards, she said: *“God made us all a certain way, and He wants us to use the way we are to spread His Word and love. Even if that means doing it with consoles and videogames; why not! We understand it, we love it, and we can reach other game lovers who can be unreachable to some.”*

Sjoukje from Belgium wrote: *“I attended the Passion Group on Film & Literature. After Presence I’ve started to write more again. The Passion Group helped me to be more conscious about what message I want to communicate and what (moral) theme I weave into the story. (...) The message does not have to be super obvious for a story to be ‘evangelising’.”*

After PRESENCE, both the group leaders and the students agreed that the concept of Passion Groups gave them fresh perspectives and new ideas on sharing the gospel naturally and creatively. It is our belief that every Christian student would benefit from understanding how their passions connect with the Kingdom of God. That is why we want to make the concept of Passion Groups available through this brochure. Here is the outline:

- 1. PHILOSOPHY OF PASSION GROUPS**
- 2. THE FORMAT OF A PASSION GROUP**
- 3. OUTLINE FOR THE PASSION GROUP**
- 4. USING THE CONCEPT OF PASSION GROUPS IN THE LOCAL IFES CONTEXT**
- 5. APPENDIX 1: PASSION GROUPS AT PRESENCE**
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Our prayer is that this brochure will be a useful resource for you to inspire and empower students to live out their passion for God’s glory!


**IGORS RAUTMANIS AND NELLEKE KRUIJMER**

# THE PHILOSOPHY OF PASSION GROUPS

The change is subtle but real: that moment, when a conversation moves from small talk to a topic someone feels passionate about. They lean forward, become more animated. There is this glimmer in their eyes, more life in their voice. They are talking about something they love, something they do, something they love talking about: their passion. Or if you prefer: their interest, their fascination, their hobby. It may be chess or jazz. Organic food or ancient history. Embroidering or civil rights. Formula One or long-distance hiking. Poetry or DIY. Astronomy or football. It can be passively enjoyed or actively done; carried out on an amateur level or professionally. It is fascinating to see what people are passionate about and how it brings them life!

Passions are deeply personal, and say a lot about the way God has wired us. They are His gifts to us to be enjoyed and nurtured. And because the things we love express so much of who we are, they become natural channels for connecting to others and serving God. What if we learn to look at our passions as ways in which we can respond to God and His reality and live for His glory? What if other people notice the glimmer in our eyes and the life in our voice when we talk about something we are passionate about, without being afraid to connect it to God? What if we do the things we love intentionally with others, so that we get to share our life and faith attractively and naturally? Passion Groups take students on a journey to explore the different ways in which they can live out their passion for God!

When developing the idea of Passion groups, we defined them as *working groups centred on different areas of interest of students, aimed at empowering them to live out their God-given passion, in order to make God famous and point others to His reality.*



There is of course an enormous variety of passions. They can be subjects like science and history, but also passions such as the outdoors, hospitality & food, blogging & social media<sup>1</sup>. The diverse areas of interests are underpinned by the following beliefs:

**Firstly, ‘the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it’ (Ps 24:1). All of life belongs to God, and all aspects of life can be used for God’s fame or be twisted for selfish and godless use.**

This world and all in it belongs to God, since it was created by God and for God. He created people in His image, to steward the world as culture makers and culture engagers, reflecting God’s character and values. When the world fell into sin, every good thing became corrupted. People edited God out of the picture and too often used and abused all things created for their own glory. But sin did not have the last word, for Jesus’ death and resurrection opened the way back to God. Not only can sinners now become saints, and slaves sons and daughters, Jesus’ resurrection power is also able to pour into every area of life and transform it into something holy and pleasing to God. This means that areas of interest like sport, fashion, art, can be claimed and reclaimed for God, enjoyed as His good gifts, and used as expressions to please God and make Him famous.


**Secondly, each person is created uniquely in God’s image; and each believer is called to glorify Him, enjoy Him, and make His salvation known. We believe that one of the most logical starting points for doing this are the very personalities, interests and passions God has wired us with.**

Not one person is the same! God created people with incredible diversity when it comes to personality types, strengths, spiritual gifts, and learning styles. In 1 Corinthians 12 we learn that diversity and complexity are pleasing to God and part of His plan for the church. He created and gifted each believer differently, in order for the church to be blessed with a rich variety of gifts and insights. We believe that in the Christian life and witness these individual differences matter, and add to the richness of worship and outreach. This does not stop at the spiritual gifts mentioned in Corinthians; as God wired each person with a different personality, different interests and passions, would it not make sense to seek to serve and worship in ways integral to who we are?

How could this work? Let us share two stories of people who are living their life and sharing their faith naturally and attractively because they have learnt to connect their passion with their love for God and His Kingdom.

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**1 Find the full list of Passion Groups that took place at Presence in Appendix 1.**



*Naty studied architecture in Prague. She has always loved for art and creativity, and would take her water colours to the streets of Prague to paint, or get her friends together in her flat to create and hang out. As Natty grew in her faith and her desire to reach her friends with the Good News, she started to think about ways of putting her passion for God and her passion for art together. She understood that her own creativity reflects the image of our Creator God, and is part of how she perceives and approaches the world. Art would enable her to reach out to her friends in a way most natural to them and to herself. Natty came up with the idea of art Bible studies, to which she invited her creative friends, both Christians and non-Christians. She opened up her home, had food and drinks ready, and together they explored a Bible story and processed its truths and applications by creating something. At Presence Natty led the Passion Group on Art & Creativity.*

*Ola grew up on a farm in Norway close to the wood, and spent a lot of his childhood in the outdoors — fishing, hiking and making fires. In the outdoors he felt energized and at home. Over the years he realized that his “Christian life” with its many church-based activities and duties was draining him of life, taking most of his free time and disconnecting him from non-church friends. Gradually he came to realize that he could combine his love for nature with serving God and others. By nurturing his passion for the outdoors he could find his real place in God’s community by connecting to other nature-lovers — believers or not. One of Ola’s initiatives was to take refugees and Norwegian students into the outdoors on a weekly basis. Other times he invited fellow students on hikes, because he knew it would benefit them. Ola says: “Over the years, many great experiences, conversations and friendships have come out of the fact that I was allowed to do what I love. For me, to be part of God’s beautiful nature is a privilege, every single time!” At Presence Ola led the Passion Group on Nature & the Outdoors.*

Would it not be wonderful if more people could understand and embrace their God-given individuality and use it for His glory, drawing others along in the process? We really believe Passion Groups can be eye-opening for students as they think more deeply about how they can glorify God and share the gospel simply by being who they are.

# THE FORMAT OF A PASSION GROUP

## PRINCIPLES AND OUTCOMES

At PRESENCE, students spent two sessions of 1.45hr each in their Passion Groups. In the space of that time we wanted them to reach these outcomes:


1. To define their passion, and connect it to the greater purpose of our presence on earth: to glorify God and make Him famous.
2. To consider how to apply what they learned during the two Passion group sessions by formulating concrete ideas that can be applied and put into action in the context of University life, whether through personal initiatives, IFES groups, or University missions.

In IFES we are committed to releasing student initiative and helping students learn and discover for themselves. Therefore, Passion groups have been shaped as workgroups, where students develop the link between their passion and 'living for God's fame.' This means that the emphasis for group leaders is on facilitating discussion and guiding the thought process rather than lecturing. This has the following implications for the role of the Passion Group leader:

- Passion Group leaders guide the students' learning process, which is aimed at helping students come to a solid understanding of their passion Biblically and evangelistically.
- Passion Group leaders are key in helping the students think out of the box, and generate practical and applicable ideas on how to use their passion for God's glory and for sharing the Good News with others.

## THE BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR PASSION GROUPS

Passion Groups topics are diverse and therefore require different approaches. But in order to help the Passion Group leaders at PRESENCE get started on their topic and ensure a level of consistency between different Passion groups, we developed a basic outline. The outline was written with two sessions of approximately 1.45hrs in mind. (The table can be found on the next page).



**The first session** is all about laying foundations through exploring various questions: What is our purpose here on earth? How does our daily life - including our passions and interests — fit into our bigger purpose? Does God have a passion for what I am passionate about? And what is the difference between being passionate about something and being passionate about it for God's glory? We also discuss the downsides of our passions, since without God's presence our passions can very easily become objects of idolatry or of dependence and identity.

**The second session** is geared towards outcomes. We do not want students to stay in the realm of ideas, but help them apply their insights and come up with possible actions. The goal of this session is for students to come up with concrete ideas that can be put into action in the context of university life, whether through personal initiatives, in IFES groups and/or University missions.

What could this process look like? Let us share an example:

*Melanie came to the Passion Group for “Stories in Literature and film”. She came to the insight that the themes in God’s big story – conflict and resolution, fall and redemption, love and justice – are recurring themes in most stories in popular culture. She realised that these stories can be a great starting point to think more about God’s truths and discuss them with her friends. At the end of the second session she wrote down the following ideas: “I want to be more intentional in thinking about the worldviews and ideas in the films I watch and the books I read. Secondly, I am going to host film nights for my friends in my dorm room, and I will choose thought-provoking films that hopefully lead to deep conversations. Finally, I’m going to suggest that we organise film & discussion nights in our local IFES group”.*



# OUTLINE FOR THE PASSION GROUP

## OUTLINE SESSION 1

In the first session students learn to define their passion, and connect it to the greater purpose of our presence on earth: to glorify God and make Him famous.

1. Getting to know each other, sharing expectations and sharing our reasons for being passionate about this topic.
2. Laying out a biblical foundation:
  - a. What is the purpose of our presence here on earth, and how do our passions link into this?
  - b. “Does God have a passion for this too?” What are principles or passages in the Bible that show God’s interest or involvement in the topic? (*Examples: art and creativity flow out of the fact that God is Creator and made people in His image to be creators too; hospitality is a theme throughout the Bible, as God ultimately is the Host welcoming people around His table; the outdoors and nature show God’s grandeur.*)
3. Thinking about the difference between being passionate about something, and being passionate about it for God’s glory. Looking at the attempts of the world to distort the goodness of this topic, and discussing how we can reclaim it for God.
  - a. Addressing the false secular/sacred divide that so often disqualifies certain topics as not spiritual or at least less spiritual (“*Christians shouldn’t be distracted by fashion/gaming/etc.*”).
  - b. Consider possible negative sides of the passion too: Idolatry/addiction/dependence.
4. Concluding by starting to think through ways in which the passion can be used to glorify God and make Him famous.



## OUTLINE SESSION 2

In the second session students apply what they learnt during the first session by coming up with concrete ideas that can be put into action in the context of University life, whether through personal initiatives or in IFES groups and/or University missions.

1. The focus of this session is on generating ideas, so the biggest chunk of the session goes to brainstorming. The goal is to come up with a wide range of ideas on how students can let God take their passion, and use it for His glory and for evangelism. Ideally, at the end of today's session, the students are able to answer: "After this passion group, I'm going to do ....."
2. Evaluating with the group how it has been for them to connect their passion with Christian life and witness. Addressing barriers students might still have in taking action.
3. Providing further reading recommendations.

# USING THE CONCEPT OF **PASSION GROUPS** IN THE LOCAL IFES CONTEXT

In the above chapters we explained how the Passion Groups worked at Presence, but the good news is that this is a very flexible and adaptable concept, so we want to give you a few more ideas on how to develop a Passion Group in your local context.

First and foremost, the Passion Group concept is an approach towards God-given interests and passions and how these can be integrated into our everyday Christian, missionary living. Whether students are helped to see these opportunities through one-on-one conversations or in multiple-session tracks does not really matter. What does matter is that students' imaginations are awakened to new possibilities!

At Presence we were able to organise Passion Groups for an audience of 1,700 students. This allowed us to offer a wide range of topics - both the common topics (like sport) and less common topics amongst Christians (like fashion and gaming). We were also able to provide every group with a leader who had background knowledge in that area. In your context this may not always be the case. A local student group will have students with very different interests, so offering a passion group on every specific topic may not work. A student may be passionate about a topic, but there are no other Christians around who share that passion or who could be a role model to that student.

Yet, these obstacles do not have to stop you from working with the Passion Group concept. We would like to hand you a few ideas for approaching and adapting the concept of Passion Groups from larger groups down to the one-to-one context.



## THE PASSION TRACK

In a local student group or a small student conference there will be a wide range of interests and passions, but the group may not be big enough to offer a variety of topic-specific tracks. One way to solve this is to put on a more generic Passion Track. It could look like this:

- The group comes together for *plenary teaching*. The introductory section should address the question of the purpose of our presence on earth, and passions link into this. The sacred-secular divide that is so often pulled up will also need explaining and addressing.
- The larger group then breaks up into *smaller working groups* according to more specific areas of interest. In these groups, students can discuss questions and ideas in the light of their passions and come up with concrete ideas on how these can be part of our evangelism and daily Christian life. It is recommended to assign a discussion facilitator for each group.
- At the end, everyone comes together to share insights and ideas, and give each other a taste of what using the different passions intentionally might look like.

Here are a few more ideas to build on the momentum of the Passion seminars:

- **SMART goals:** Every student writes down at least one SMART<sup>2</sup> goal on how to use their passion more intentionally.
- **BUDDIES:** If students share a similar passion, encourage them to link up, to share ideas and pray for each other.
- **SPOTLIGHT:** If you know of students who use their passions in interesting ways, give them a platform to share! Let them talk about their experiences, ask them to read a poem they wrote, sing or rap a song, display a few of their photos or show their blog. Celebrate their initiative, and as a group pray for them.
- **PASSION TALKS:** organise a TED-style evening, for which you ask several students to give a short talk on something they are passionate about and want to use for God's glory.

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2 The acronym SMART stands for: specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic, time-bound.



## **'FIND YOUR PASSION' EVENT**

Maybe you like the idea of Passion Groups, but you feel that it will be too much of a challenge for your student group. How about drawing inspiration from an ISM group in the Netherlands and organise a 'Find your passion event'? This event is aimed at helping students identify their passion, and let them share about things they feel strongly about. This works well in a context with non-Christians too.

Here is how it works: Bring magazines, scissors and glue, and let students make a collage of the topics they are interested in/feel strongly about/get excited about. Let them explain their choices, and talk about whether they take these passions seriously and make time for them. A follow-up conversation could be about how God feels about these topics, and ways in which they could use their passions more.

## **ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS**

The topic of passions also has its place in one-to-one meetings with students. Perhaps you want to look at this as part of an ongoing discipleship programme/relationship. The advantage of going through the passion material one-to-one is that it allows you to discuss their specific questions and contexts more in-depth, which helps shape the outcomes. A little background reading may help, but even if you are not an expert in their area of interest, asking good questions can get you a long way. You can also consider linking students up with another Christian with this passion.

The outline of the Passion Groups (page 11) could serve as an outline for the one-to-one meetings.







APPENDIX 1

# PASSION GROUPS AT PRESENCE

This is the list of the Passion Groups we offered at PRESENCE. The descriptions show the angle from which we approached the topic. Use it as an inspiration.

PASSION GROUPS	DESCRIPTION
 <p><b>Stories: in literature and film.</b></p>	<p>If you are intrigued by stories, then this is your track! This passion group explores what our love for good stories has to do with the story of God and His world. You'll go away with ideas on how you can use stories as a way of pointing your friends to the reality of God's story.</p>
 <p><b>Food &amp; hospitality</b></p>	<p>"Taste and see that the Lord is good!" Grace, mission and community often happen around the table. If you love hospitality and food, could you take it all a step further and use it to give people a taste of Jesus? This track will give you a lot of ideas, for your student group and for you personally.</p>
 <p><b>Art &amp; creating</b></p>	<p>Art starts on the first page of the Bible. Our Creator God created this wonderful world, and His image-bearers were made to be creators too! Through art, people relate to the world and to the big questions of life. How can we use art as a way of exploring and responding to the message of God, and invite our non-Christian friends to join us in that?</p>

	<b>Poetry</b>	Poetry is a powerful thing! It can get people to think in ways prose can't. There is a lot of poetry in the Bible, so we know that God uses poetry to speak to people; and when Paul was in Athens he used the poetry of his contemporaries to tell them about God. How can your love for poetry be used to voice the heart of God to the people around you?
	<b>Sports &amp; exercise</b>	"For in him we live and move and have our being." This track is all about combining your love for sport with opportunities for sharing Jesus. Sport brings people together. How can sport help you to create openings to share Jesus with your friends?
	<b>Music</b>	Music is a language that speaks powerfully to many people. How can music be used as a way to celebrate God and communicate the gospel? How can you worship God with music, with and without worship songs?
	<b>The outdoors &amp; nature</b>	When venturing into the great outdoors we often experience God's beauty and greatness in awe-some ways, and at the same time we get to spend a lot of time with people. How can we use this time intentionally, to invite our friends in the greatest adventure: a life with God?
	<b>Blogging &amp; social media</b>	It's hard to imagine our world without social media. Can we use social media to carve out a bigger presence for God, and give a voice and expression to what it means to live as people of God? Join this track if you love being online, and want to learn more about 'onlining' for God's glory.
	<b>Science</b>	There are many resources on science and faith these days. We can confidently say that science hasn't buried God! But what does that mean for you? How can science help you to see God more clearly? And how can the people around you see God more clearly through your passion for science? Come and engage in this track!

	<b>Dance &amp; theatre</b>	<p>God has a passion for drama and dance! In the Bible there are multiple examples of God using drama to communicate his truth, and people dancing in worship. How can we celebrate and incorporate theatre and dance to express the good news, and draw our friends closer to God?</p>
	<b>Travelling</b>	<p>How can travelling enrich your understanding of God and the world He made, and help you explore the breadth of His kingdom? How can you go the second mile, and share Jesus with fellow-travellers or encourage the local church?</p>
	<b>University Politics</b>	<p>University politics is a great place to directly engage with your university. How can you bring salt and light into your university in this way? How can leaders protect themselves from the pitfalls of power, money and sex, and lead a life of integrity? Can you plug in to an existing network, or start something new at your university?</p>
	<b>History</b>	<p>For people passionate about history, and about connecting the dots between history and His Story.</p>
	<b>Social Justice</b>	<p>God is passionate about justice in society. Both Jesus and the prophets write about injustice, poverty, exploitation and misuse of wealth and power. What opportunities do you have to engage in social justice where you are? Can you as a Christian student spread light by initiating or engaging in something on your campus?</p>
	<b>Fashion &amp; beauty</b>	<p>Is fashion the expression of a self-obsessed culture, or is there more to it? How can it be used for good and what does it show about God's gifts of creativity and talent? In this seminar we will go through these questions together, and brainstorm on how we can display God in the realm of fashion and beauty.</p>
	<b>Healthy Living</b>	<p>There's huge interest in healthy living: both physically (exercise, diets, super food) and mentally (yoga, mindfulness and endless other options). What's behind this preoccupation with health? How can we point people to Jesus in our attempts to live life to the fullest?</p>





**(Video)  
gaming**

Video games are among the largest/fastest-growing media outlets. Many students spend their free time in the online gaming world. Can Jesus be brought into the world of video games?



**Photography**

If you are passionate about photography, then this seminar is for you! Does God like photography and Instagram too? We are going to discuss it, and we'll also come up with lots of ideas of how your photography can help to zoom in on God, and make Him more visible to your friends and your university.

## APPENDIX 2

# SEMINAR NOTES OF TWO **PASSION GROUP** LEADERS

To give an idea of how Passion Group leaders at Presence approached their subject, we have included notes from Veronika Lepik and Aseel Shomar who led the Passion Group on Fashion & Beauty, and Emmanuelle Maignial who led the Passion Group on Photography.

On the website of IFES Europe under [www.ifeseurope.org](http://www.ifeseurope.org) you can find notes and reading recommendations on more Passion Group topics.

## **NOTES FROM THE PASSION GROUP ON FASHION & BEAUTY BY VERONIKA LEPIK AND ASEEL SHOMAR.**

### **OUTLINE SESSION 1**


In today's session the students learn to define their passion, and connect it to the greater purpose of our presence on earth: to glorify God and make Him famous.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone had to choose a picture and then introduce themselves with that picture and also add something they like about their style.

### **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FASHION AND BEAUTY**

Bible verse game: we divided the group into two, and gave each group bible verses that speak positively or negatively about beauty. The two groups then had to explain and defend their verses. At the end, the moderator formulated a summary and compromise between the different sides. Bible verses: 1



Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 31:30, 1 Peter 3:3-4, 1 Timothy 4:8, Isaiah 40:8, 2 Corinthians 4:16, 1 Timothy 2:9-10, Matthew 6:28-29, Romans 8:6, Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 2:10, Genesis 1:27, Song of Songs 4:7.

## **ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The main points we brought up for discussion:

- Clothes and makeup in numbers (industry),
- Lies of beauty: Self-esteem (high and low), Cover up broken lives, Provocative, acceptance, Life is short, the need to be perfectly beautiful
- Behind the model industry: The art of fashion, Money behind it - business, Model as a doll, Everything to sell

In the second part we gave some inspiring examples from the cloth industry in developing countries, and we also talked about some models following Christ: (former model) Tracy Trinita, Models for Christ & Fashion for Christ Ministries, Fashion Brand EUGEN KLEIN run by a christian family.

## **OUTLINE SESSION 2**

In today's session the students apply all they learned during the first session by coming up with concrete ideas that can be put into action in the context of University life, whether through personal initiatives or in IFES groups and/or University missions.

## **BRAINSTORMING IDEAS**

Students brainstormed with the help of paper and markers, to come up with ideas to use their passion in everyday life. We helped them by giving some of our own stories and ideas what could be done in this area and then they came up with their own ideas. For example: giving away clothes/accessories to other students; organising a nail/hair parlour where we can share God's word with other girls; putting on lectures on topics related to beauty and self-esteem that contain a Christian message; organising fashion events at the University through which we can meet with students with the same passion. This may lead to conversations about faith.

In small groups we prayed for each other. There were many tears and we believe God encouraged the girls to be themselves and live out Him more in their own unique way.

## FOR FURTHER READING

Fashion bloggers:

- <http://gabrielleaurora.com/>
- <http://jseverydayfashion.com/home/2016/2/17/fashion-and-faith-christianity-can-they-coexist>

Article by a previous model

- <http://www.everystudent.com/features/beauty.html>

Models for Christ (testimonies)

- <http://www.modelsforchrist.com/>

True Beauty *by C. Mahaney*

Imagine *by Steve Turner.*

## NOTES FROM THE PASSION GROUP ON PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMMANUELLE MAIGNIAL

### OUTLINE SESSION 1

In today's session the students learn to define their passion, and connect it to the greater purpose of our presence on earth: to glorify God and make Him famous.

### BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF ART

- [Genesis 1 and 2 : Cultural mandate] God creates out of nothing /Men and women are made in the image of God: we are invited to create from his material. / Art is everywhere in the Bible.
- Art for God's sake [Exodus 35 & 36: the making of the sanctuary]: the artist's call and gift come from God. /- God loves all kinds of arts / God maintains high standards for goodness, truth and beauty/ Art is for the glory of God.

### BIBLICAL BASIS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

- Visual art: a means of communication [Ezekiel 1]
- "Seeing beyond" [Mark 6.30-36]: the idea that Jesus saw beyond a hungry crowd and saw the real needs. In the same way a Christian photographer



should be able to see beyond a scenery

- A “healthy eye”( Matthew 6.22-23) and redemption: because of redemption, we need to cast a healthy eye onto our fallen world.
- As Christians, we’re supposed to be full of Jesus’s hope, and cast “a spiritual eye” on the world.
- We’re supposed to bring beauty to this world because we know that God has redeemed an ugly world to make it beautiful.

## HOW TO USE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR GOD’S GLORY

- What does it mean to work for God’s glory?
- Art and God’s glory: your gift comes from God and that your identity does not rely on your ego; that’s idolatry. A Christian artist’s identity is the same as any other Christian — it only relies on Jesus-Christ.
- Ways to give God glory: Acknowledging your artistic talent comes from God/ Offering your art in praise to God/ Don’t make it an idol/ What are your motivations?
- How to have right motivations in photography. We have moral choices in the way we use photography (capturing , post-processing, sharing)
- For man’s glory: the dangers of photography and negative sides: narcissism and idolatry. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2M-fs\\_H-Ng&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2M-fs_H-Ng&feature=youtu.be)

## OUTLINE SESSION 2

In today’s session the students apply all they learned during the first session by coming up with concrete ideas that can be put into action in the context of University life, whether through personal initiatives or in IFES groups and/or University missions.

So what I did was first to connect their type of photography (portraits/ landscapes/ urban etc) to God’s glory, so they could see in a practical way how they could use their gift.



## **PHOTOGRAPHY FOR GOD'S GLORY [PART 2: PRACTICAL WAYS TO GIVE GOD GLORY ACCORDING TO EACH ONE'S TYPE OF PHOTOGRAPHY]**

- Art for God's sake:
- Fulfil your mandate and practice your gift.
- The pursuit of beauty
- Sharing your feelings about something.
- Bring something different than the 'world' has to offer.
- Dare to be original in the evangelical world !!
- Share (parts of) the Gospel, photography in an apologetic dimension.
- Show beauty where people can't see it / give people dignity

Most of the students had their cameras/ computers/ smartphones with them, so I encouraged them to share some of their photos.

### **BRAINSTORMING**

I simply asked them if they had ideas of how to use photography for outreach on a campus and we came up with: organizing exhibitions / using photos as surveys to start a conversations about the Gospel/ join a photography club and make friends/ organize a photo contest/ have a project like make portraits of students on campus, then have an exhibition with an evangelistic talk on topics like identity/ just live out your faith and be the best photographer as possible!

*For further reading I recommended Philip G. Ryken's Art for God's Sake: a Call to Recover the Arts.*

*I recommended some camps and meetings like the Christian Artist Seminar.*


## APPENDIX 3

# FACILITATING A BRAINSTORMING SESSION

In the second session of the Passion Group track the focus for group leaders is on helping students generate ideas. A successful brainstorming session gets the creative juices flowing, expands the realm of possibilities, and helps students to land on ideas they want to try out in their own context. But it is not always easy to get students to this point. Sometimes the challenge is that only a few people do the talking, whilst the rest does not speak up, or even disengages. Other times the brainstorm gets stuck because of a lack of inspiration. To help you facilitate the brainstorming well, we list a few important brainstorming principles here, and refer you to online resources for further reading.

Whilst there needs to be enough time for the brainstorming phase, make sure there is plenty of time to help students move from ideas to a plan of action. Between 10-20 minutes should be enough for the brainstorming, with another 15-30 minutes for discussing ideas and writing down goals or action plans. Provide a flipchart, sticky notes, and coloured pens.

1. Safe space. Before you start the brainstorming session state the purpose and desired outcomes of the brainstorm, welcome everyone's input and establish the brainstorming rules to ensure everyone knows what is expected and feels safe to participate.
2. Time to think. Some people think out loud, whilst others need some time to reflect on a question or topic. Give a few minutes for people to think in silence and jot ideas down on paper, before sharing in the group.
3. Everyone participates: get everyone in the group to share the ideas they wrote down.
4. Record ideas: assign a scribe who will record every idea on flipchart or paper.

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5. Defer judgement: in the process of brainstorming every idea is welcome. Do not allow space for criticism or for discussions at this point, because this leaves people feel unsafe and less willing to share more ideas.
  6. Quantity not quality counts: generate as many ideas as possible. The obvious, funny, bad and unrealistic ideas are welcome too, because they may spark the best ideas.
  7. From ideas to action: after the brainstorming time is up, let the group look afresh at all the ideas, and together try to group and categorise them. Which ideas go together? Which ideas can be done individually, which ones in small groups and which ones at the local student group level or beyond?
    - a. Get students to write down their personal top 3 of ideas that they could imagine doing in their own context.
    - b. Ask them to start thinking about the practicalities: can they do it alone or with others? What do they need to make it happen in terms of time/resources/prep?
    - c. Ask them to write down some SMART goals of what they want to do with their passion.
    - d. Share & pray.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

- TED-ED on how to lead a brainstorm session:  
<http://blog.ed.ted.com/2017/03/10/how-to-lead-a-brainstorm-for-young-introverts-and-extroverts-too/>
- <https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/clubsorgs/leadership/Brainstorming.pdf>
- 7 Tips on Better Brainstorming from OpenIDEO:  
<https://challenges.openideo.com/blog/seven-tips-on-better-brainstorming>



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