



FEBRUARY'S THEME

PERFORM

SCRIPTURE | John 4:1-42

BOTTOM LINE | Jesus is the well that never runs dry

MEMORY VERSES | John 4:13-14

LIFE APP | Stay connected with Jesus through regular faith practices



•Tonight the students will hear from a panel of their peers involved in the fine arts as well as from directors. We will serve communion as well.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

**THINK
ABOUT THIS**

Tonight is the first in our faith and work series, "Perform." Throughout this month we will help the students think about how they can integrate their faith with their work in fine arts, sports, and school. Tonight we'll think about the fine arts as a context where our faith can make a big difference. This guide has two sections. The first reflects directly on the question of how to integrate faith and fine arts and includes the questions that we asked the panel. The second is a short devotional tied to our journey through the Gospel of John. The devotional is related to the topic, so it can be another useful avenue for discussion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your "highs" and "lows" with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week.

MESSAGE

- What fine arts have you been a part of as a participant or as a spectator?
- Talk about how you came to be involved in the fine arts and how it has influenced your faith. Was it something that you came to through your family or was there another route?
- How do the fine arts help you to connect with God or the community of God in better or deeper ways? Can you think of a specific moment where that happened?
- How do the fine arts give you perspective for things like worshiping God, prayer, or discipleship outside the context of church? Are there moments where you feel a deeper connection to God than you do at church? How so?
- In what way would you say that your leading or participating in the fine arts demonstrates something about God for other people? Is it something that you are conscious of normally? Should you be?
- How have the fine arts been a gift that God has given you?
- In what ways can that gift be distorted or broken in your experience? Are there times when the fine arts can be

harmful to the life that God wants us to have? How so?

- What would you say is the logical first step for you to connect your faith to your involvement with the fine arts? Even if you don't participate, you live in a culture that is deeply connected (*American Idol*, *The Voice*) to them.

DEVOTIONAL | John 4:1-42

I tore my binder in half as I walked away from the bulletin board. The binder certainly didn't deserve it, it just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. I just found out that I had missed the cut for All-State Choir again. I was angry, heart broken, confused, and a whole lot of other emotions that needed that kinetic release on the binder that day. My guess is that if you have been part of an ensemble where things haven't gone your way, then you have been in one of these moments. It happens all the time. Especially when you're part of something that requires so much of your time and passion. I had spent an untold amount of time preparing for this last shot to make it. Countless hours daydreaming about the auditions and who knows how many hours actually rehearsing. A lot of who I was and who I understood myself to be was wrapped up in that process. But, then, a group of directors decided that things would be different.

Jesus' words to this woman at the well rang true for me then and still serve as a deep source of life for me today as I navigate the ups and downs of life. As you read in the story, this woman is certainly in the midst of a life where it isn't altogether clear where her identity and life come from each day. Into that cycle Jesus says, *"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* As a Christian, participating in the fine arts, or anything else for that matter, isn't wrong in itself. Where things come off the rails is when we mistake our success for the well. When your life is grounded in Jesus, music and everything else you do become places where the water of life overflows. So, no matter how things are going there, how dry and desert-like they may be, you stay filled with the water of life.

- Have there been seasons in your life when you have mistaken your performance for the well? What was that like? Do you know some people who have way too much of their identity wrapped up in how they perform? How do you see that impacting their lives overall? Their relationships?
- Has there been a time in your life when you've gone through a "dry season" when your relationship with Jesus provided that water of life that got you through? How so?
- What are some practices you can bring to your participation in the fine arts as a participant or a fan that can change the way you participate/view them so that you maintain perspective?



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**STUDENT
MINISTRY**

FEB 7
SMALL GROUP GUIDE | MS/HS

EXTRAS TRY THIS

I AM SECOND

What You Need: Phone with internet connection

What You Do: There are all kinds of videos from some musicians talking about the way that they integrate their faith with their lives in the performing arts. Some that you might check out are: Lecrae and Josh Turner.

JUST FOR FUN GAMES ETC.

LIP SYNC CHALLENGE

What You Need: Music playing device and whatever props you can find

What You Do: Find a popular song that you know well. Put together some choreography to the song and perform it for an unsuspecting small group at StuMin.