

PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK

Creativity BY DESIGN

— ● ◆ ● —
A SEMINAR ON THE GOD-DESIGNED
NATURE OF HUMAN CREATIVITY

NAME _____

DATE _____

Chelsey Johnston

DESIGN

How to Use This Workbook

This workbook moves in three layers. First, it carries the key ideas and scriptures from each section of the seminar — so you can track the teaching without scrambling to write everything down. Second, it gives you space to process what you're hearing in real time. Third, it leads you into a practical activation: a structured exercise to begin working out your own intentional creativity.

Don't rush the reflection questions. The Spirit often speaks in the pause. If something surfaces during the seminar — write it. If a question doesn't resonate today, it may become a reference point later.

Come back to this. The activation section is designed not just for today, but as a framework you can return to any time you sit down to create.

PRINCIPLE

Your creativity is not incidental to your faith. It is an expression of it.

Part 1 · God Creates with Intention, Not Impulse

PRINCIPLE

Creativity without intentionality produces noise. God never created casually.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1–28

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... And God saw that it was good.

INSIGHT

Walk through the structure of Genesis 1 — not just what God made, but how. There is sequence. Separation. Naming. Evaluation. Each creative act builds on the last. This is purposeful construction, not spontaneous expression. God's creativity had direction because it flowed from His nature and His intention for humanity.

Notice also the repeated phrase: 'it was good.' God was not in a hurry to produce. He paused to evaluate. He let each thing be what it was before moving to the next. The discipline of completion is as sacred as the act of creation.

APPLICATION

Before you create, ask: What is this for? Who is this serving? What truth does this carry? Passion gives purpose to creation when it is tethered to something beyond the work itself.

NOTES FROM THIS SECTION

***Reflect** — Where in your creative life have you been producing output without a clear sense of purpose or intention?*

***Reflect** — What is one creative project where you can identify what it is for, who it serves, and what truth it carries?*

Part 2 · You Were Made to Create, Not Just Consume

PRINCIPLE

You bear the image of the Creator. Creativity isn't a talent — it's part of your design.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26–28

Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...'

INSIGHT

The imago Dei is not just about dignity — it's about function. God creates, and so do we. This is one of the clearest reflections of His image in us. Your passion, your vision, your desire to make something — that is not personality quirk. That is image-bearing.

Passion gives purpose to what you create because passion points toward what you were made to care about. When your creativity flows from a place of identity rather than performance, the work carries a different weight. You are not trying to prove something. You are expressing something.

APPLICATION

Don't dismiss the things that move you deeply. Your interests are not distractions — they are often directional. The question is whether you will bring them under the Spirit's leadership, or keep them in the realm of self-expression alone.

NOTES FROM THIS SECTION

***Reflect** — What creative impulses or passions have you dismissed as 'not spiritual enough' or 'not serious enough' to steward?*

***Reflect** — If your creativity is an expression of the image of God in you, how does that shift the way you think about what you make?*

Part 3 · When You're Overwhelmed by Possibilities

PRINCIPLE

Overwhelm is often a soul trying to carry what only the Spirit was meant to carry.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

INSIGHT

Before anything was formed, there was formlessness. Chaos. Void. And the Spirit hovered. The Hebrew word *rachaph* implies a gentle, watchful, active presence over something unformed. God did not panic over the void. The Spirit moved over it with patience and intention.

That same Spirit wants to hover over your creative process. Over your blank page, your undeveloped idea, your creative block. The overwhelm you feel when possibilities multiply and clarity disappears — that is not a sign that you have failed. It may be an invitation to slow down and let the Spirit do what only He can do: bring order to chaos.

APPLICATION

When you feel overwhelmed by what could be made, slow down before you speed up. Invite the Spirit into the process. Striving will produce work, but not necessarily the work. Presence comes before production.

NOTES FROM THIS SECTION

***Reflect** — What does creative overwhelm feel or look like for you? Where does it tend to show up?*

***Reflect** — What would it practically look like for you to invite the Spirit into your creative process before you begin?*

Part 4 · Write the Vision, Carry It Faithfully

PRINCIPLE

Creative vision is not just inspiration — it's stewardship.

SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 2:1–3

Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end — it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

INSIGHT

Habakkuk doesn't just receive a vision — he is told to write it plainly, so that a runner can carry it. The vision has legs only when it's clear enough for someone else to move with it. God's creative vision for your life isn't meant to stay abstract or atmospheric. It is meant to be written, named, and walked out in real time.

Notice the honesty in verse 3: the vision may seem slow. There will be seasons where what you've been given does not yet look like what you imagined. Faithfulness in those seasons is not passive waiting — it is active stewardship of something entrusted to you. A vision you cannot name is a vision you cannot steward.

APPLICATION

Write it down. Not to create pressure, but to create clarity. Bring it to the Spirit. Let Him refine what is yours to carry and release what is not.

NOTES FROM THIS SECTION

***Reflect** — What creative vision have you been carrying but never clearly articulated — even to yourself?*

***Reflect** — Is there a difference between a vision that feels slow and one you've quietly abandoned? How do you tell them apart?*

Activation · Practising Intentional Creativity

The following exercise is designed to help you move from receiving truth to applying it. Work through each step honestly. This is not a performance — it is a practice. Come back to it anytime you sit down to create.

STEP 1 — NAME YOUR VISION

Write down a creative vision you are currently carrying. It could be a project, a ministry idea, a business, a body of work, or a creative gift you haven't yet developed. Keep it simple and concrete.

1

The Vision Statement

Write it plainly. If a friend picked this up and read it, could they carry it? Aim for clarity over poetry.

MY VISION

STEP 2 — ANCHOR IT IN PURPOSE

Now answer the three questions from Part 1. Don't rush this. Each question does different work.

Reflect — What is this for?

Reflect — Who is this serving?

Reflect — What truth does this carry?

2**The Purpose Filter**

If you struggle to answer any of these three, that is information. The vision may need more time with the Spirit before it needs more time on your schedule.

STEP 5 — ONE FAITHFUL NEXT STEP

Resist the pull toward a full action plan. The goal is one next step — the most faithful thing you can do in the next seven days to steward this vision. Small and obedient is better than ambitious and overwhelming.

5**Faithful Over Flashy**

You don't have to launch. You just have to move. One faithful step is how every significant work began.

MY NEXT FAITHFUL STEP IS...

A Closing Word

You are not creating to prove something.

You are creating because you bear the image of the One who made everything.

Let that be enough to begin.

Personal Journal

Use these pages to continue processing what the Spirit is speaking to you. There are no right answers here — only honest ones.

Personal Journal

Use these pages to continue processing what the Spirit is speaking to you. There are no right answers here — only honest ones.

Personal Journal

Use these pages to continue processing what the Spirit is speaking to you. There are no right answers here — only honest ones.

