

## STUDY GUIDE: Week #5

### I'm In <3 | The Romantic Artist

October 5 - 11

This fall we will be going through a seven week sermon series based on Pastor Bruce's new book, "I'm In <3," in which he challenges us "to know the deep intimate love of God through the person of the Holy Spirit."

#### INTRODUCTION

The Hebrew scriptures are consistent in portraying the Spirit with artistic taste. God is artistic as well as authoritative. God is creative and enjoys beauty as well as truth. In Chapter Five of the book, Bruce makes the statement that *"most ancient cultures, including the Hebrew culture, considered artistry as primarily the domain of women... that the artistic realm was the domain of the Holy Spirit, **ruah**, a female noun."*

#### CHAT

Traditionally, God is most often referred to in masculine terminology.

- What do you think about the idea that the Holy Spirit is sometimes (not always) referred to in the Hebrew scriptures with a female designation?
- In what ways does this thought impact your view of God? Of the Trinity?

#### READ & DISCUSS

Colossians 3:16; 2 Samuel 6:14; Exodus 15:20-21

In his book, Bruce says: *"The Holy Spirit communicates with us primarily through the arts. Story and song, drama and dance, art and poetry - these are the palette of the Spirit."*

- Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why, or why not?
- In what ways, or through what medium(s) have you most often experienced the Holy Spirit?

In the sermon, Bruce said, *"For many cultures, Miriam's dance is the normal form of worship. In fact, non-dancing worship is a mystery for many tribal cultures."*

- What kind of connections do you think there might be between this type of worship expression and experiencing the excitement and joy in our relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- Do you think the more reserved form of corporate worship at a church like ours is less Spirit-filled than those who engage with more expressive forms? Why or why not?

#### DEFINE

**Artistry** - a superior skill that you can learn by study and practice and observation.

**Creative** - relating to or involving imagination or original ideas.

#### READ & DISCUSS

Exodus 35:30-36

What if the “artist” is not just an individual, but a collective, a mosaic in which each contributor is one color or texture, but in order to make a piece of art, each must add their part to the whole?

- In this story of the creating of the Temple, where do you see artistic creativity and skill displayed?
- Do you think that Holy Spirit-inspired creativity and artistry is limited to art pieces, music, drama, or dance?
- Share examples of when/where you have seen imagination, artistry, creative problem solving, and beauty in your workplace, or vocation (other than music, dance, or art pieces). Ex: Accountant, CEO, Facilities Manager, etc.

### **APPLY**

We are co-creators with God, called to collaborate with the Spirit in her artistry, to become part of restoring the Spirit of God’s art project earth. Every one of us has been gifted to participate - with uniquely creative and artistic expressions that joyfully reflect the beauty and creativity of the Holy Spirit.

This week: Meditate daily on Phil. 4:8: *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”*

Look for the creative and artistic touch of the Holy Spirit everywhere - and maybe, take a risk and break out into a song or dance!

### **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

