

## Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email [info@revolutionky.org](mailto:info@revolutionky.org).

## Series Synopsis

Resilience. The human capacity to get up again and again after falling down; the ability to recover quickly from many difficulties. A new year typically sparks excitement for new opportunities, plans, dreams, and goals. And yet, at the beginning of this new year we still find ourselves in the middle of a worldwide health crisis and an amended way of life. Hope is on the horizon, but we know any semblance of normal, or even a "new normal," is still months away. What we need now is resilience. What we need now is the firm foundation of scripture and our Christian tradition that show us that our faith is resilient because of the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ. Join us this January as we review practices for cultivating hope in the midst of incredible suffering through meaning, creativity, and community.

## Message Synopsis

Victor Frankl in his book, "Man's Search for Meaning," argues that the first way we find meaning in life is through what we create or do. Barbara Brown Taylor offers her methods of developing resilience which include to plant something, prune something, and take care of yourself. Whether it is planting a garden, writing a poem, taking a nap, or singing a song, expressing our own creativity and tending to another living being can remind us that hope and life spring eternal. This practice for cultivating resilience will look like finding a rhythm between create and rest.

## Key Scriptures

*2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

## Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. What stuck out to you in this teaching, either from Rachel or Laurel, about the power of creativity? How is expressing ourselves creatively related to how we are created?
2. Is there something you enjoy doing just for the sake of doing it, and not because you have been told you are good at it? Do you have trouble doing something you are not good at?
3. What could having a childlike faith look like for you when it comes to cultivating creativity, the freedom to play, and rest?
4. What is one thing you might try this week to help you develop resilience through creativity? How can we help you do that?

## Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

**Video: “An Imagination Set Free by God”** by Erwin McManus (38 min)

(located in the “Renovation Group Conference Sessions” channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/81783>

**NOTE:** If you have enough time, watch the whole video, so you can hear some of Erwin’s story. This will help drive home the concept of resilience in the rest of his message. If you have less time, start around 13:25. If you have even less time, start at 34:03. The questions will focus on this smallest section, although you can answer most of them even without watching the video.

1. Take a moment to discuss this video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Erwin tells us that our creativity is not only our greatest sense of insecurity (for who wants to be judged for their innermost feelings and expressions?) but is also our greatest strength and greatest danger if abused. And yet “as long as you breathe, you will create.” Erwin’s hope is that the church would become so busy creating that we wouldn’t have time for sin, and yet at the same time says that our imaginations can lead to great destruction (sin). What does he say is the difference between an imagination that leads to destruction and one that leads to creativity? Can you share an example of when your imagination led to one side or the other? Why do you think this was so?
3. Are you more prone to work toward protecting your past (tradition, your parent’s faith, protecting the things and relationships you already have, your public image or self-image, maintaining a lifestyle, etc.) or are you more focused on creating a future for you and others? Explain this and consider what motivates you to do either one?
4. Take a moment to review Genesis 1. Is there anything more central to the image of God within you than creativity? Is there anything more unique to humankind in the midst of all other creation? Explain.
5. How are you creative in your daily vocation (job, family, ministry, etc.)?
6. When you truly let your imagination run wild, what do you see God doing with your life? Take a moment to brainstorm. What would it take to pursue this dream? What would it cost? How can your group stand with you, encourage you, and motivate you?

### Family-Related Questions:

1. Children love creative play. They have awesome imaginations. Think for a moment about your own childhood. Where did your creativity and imagination start to wane (if it did) and why do you think that is? (Another way to think of this is, when did you become more protective of your creativity?) With that in mind, how can you foster creativity in your child(ren) and protect them from similar discouragement?
2. How can you encourage your children this week to be imaginative about God and His calling on their lives? What can you imagine together to help them learn and grow in their faith?
3. How does creativity help your children cope with difficulties? Have you ever encouraged your children to express their emotions (especially difficult ones) through art? If so, what was the outcome? If not, what do you think the outcome might be?