

Sacred Photography

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SUMMARY: In this session we will train our eyes to see beauty wherever we look and capture it with a camera. We will learn insights on noticing hidden beauty and then go find it and capture it with our camera!

GOALS: Participants will train their eyes to see the (sometimes hidden) beauty in the world and in other people. Participants will learn photography techniques to capture beauty.

AUDIENCE: Any

TIMING: 45

MATERIALS:

- Cameras

SET-UP: No set-up necessary

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:03 – *Awesomeness of pictures. How images affect us.*
- 00:03-00:07 – *The art of finding beauty wherever you look, even in sad places.*
- 00:07-00:12 – *Photography 101*
- 00:12-00:15 – *Give Assignment*
- 00:15-00:30 – *Go do photo shoot*
- 00:30-00:40 – *Come back and share favorite pictures and stories*
- 00:40-00:45 – *Debrief*
- *Punch line/last line: "Have eyes that see the beauty in each other and this world".*

SESSION OUTLINE

00:00-00:03 – Awesomeness of pictures. How images affect us.

Introduction. This session will be run by a silly character (Dudi Calahan). Dudi will welcome everyone and take their picture. Dudi will give a brief talk on the awesomeness of pictures and how images affect us. The leader will show some iconic images.

00:03-00:07 – The art of finding beauty wherever you look, even in sad places.

The leader will talk about the art of finding beauty wherever you look, even in sad places. Everything has a story. A great image both captures a moment/a story and at the same time leaves you curious about what happened before and after the picture. If you have the right eyes, you can see beauty wherever you look!

00:07-00:12 – Photography 101

In this section we will go over some very basic photography principles to be aware of.

- **Framing a picture.** If you put too much in the frame, then the viewer will be distracted from what you want them to see. Too little in the frame and the image can lose its magic. Be mindful of which elements you want in or out of the shot.
- **Foreground/background.** Most images have a main object. Is there something behind or in front of this main object? If so, this will give the image a sense of depth, which is often enjoyable for a viewer.
- **Blending** into a moment to get a candid photo. A beautiful moment can be a fleeting thing. Sometimes just the act of bringing out a camera, a capturing device, can make the moment less magical. As a rule, it is good to connect to your moment without a camera first, to blend in, and then snap the candid photo. This takes skill.
- **Take more shots,** delete and edit later. Take wider shots as you can trim the photos down later.

00:12-00:15 – Give Assignment

Instruct the participants to go somewhere. It could be a public place, a private place, or somewhere in nature. When you get there, close your eyes, slowly spin around 5 times, and open your eyes. Notice what you see right in front of you. Zoom in, notice/find the beauty, and take a well framed picture of it!

00:15-00:30 – Go do photo shoot

Give the participants 15 minutes to go do a photo shoot by playing the photo game mentioned.

00:30-00:40 – Come back and share favorite pictures and stories

As for volunteers and give anyone who is passionate to share their experience the floor.

- Encourage them to share the *story* of this experience?
- Why did you select this one as your favorite picture?

00:40-00:45 – Debrief

Discuss how using a character can be useful while teaching

- Benefits of disconnecting self and entering this schtick mindset?
- What would they name their fictional character?
- What other times in their lives do they remember being taught by a character?

Punch line/last line: “Have eyes that see the beauty in each other and this world”

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP

You can use this as a bunk rotation or as a rainy day activity.