



TEACHING METHODS

Teaching Theology Through Art

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON TEACHING:

- ARTWORK, EITHER PHYSICALLY PRESENT OR PROJECTED ON SCREENS
- SCREENS/ PROJECTORS

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR VIRTUAL TEACHING:

- GROUP MEETING PLATFORM
- PRESENTATION OF IMAGES OF SELECTED ARTWORK ON PRESENTATION SOFTWARE OF YOUR CHOICE

EMPOWERING LEARNING:

- ENGAGES INTRAPERSONAL, INTERPERSONAL, VISUAL, AUDITORY, AND KINESTHETIC LEARNERS

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Teaching the Bible '21

DESCRIPTION

Critiquing works of art centered around a particular theological theme, both individually and in conversation, can help us discover how theology has evolved over time, in different contexts. We can also gain insight into our own theology and the presuppositions we hold.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR IN-PERSON TEACHING

- Gather artwork illustrating a chosen topic.
- If possible, set the pieces, or projections of them, up around the room to allow for movement.
- Have students encounter the art in silence, paying attention to both their initial reactions as well as what they notice as they continue to observe.
- Pay attention to what is included and excluded, positioning of people and objects, where the light falls, background images, etc.
- Follow up with group discussion

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIRTUAL TEACHING

- Create a presentation displaying selected art.
- Have students reserve comments as you slowly scroll through the pieces. Have them note their initial reaction, as well as what they notice through continued observation.
- Give similar instructions for analysis as above.
- After showing all the artwork, open the floor for discussion and group analysis. Consider using breakout rooms for larger groups to allow everyone to contribute.

IDEAS FOR USING THIS METHOD

- Show a collection of images of Jesus from around the world, and discuss the bias and presuppositions we bring with based on our context.
- Illustrate the evolution in the theology of the Doctrine of the Trinity by showing artistic depictions from the middle ages, the renaissance, and our current time.