

Creative Processes

strongly believe that
ment you d



...again
...mean your
...not shun it
...then you are richest. Th
...find faults in paradise. L
...as it is: You may perhap
...pleasant, thrilling, glorious
...a poorhouse.
...the setting sun is reflected fr
...of the alms-house as brightly
...the rich man's abode; the snow melts
...re its door as early in the spring. I do
...see but a quiet mind may live as con-
...tently there, and have as cheering
...thoughts, as in a palace. The town's poor
...seem to me often to live the most inde-
...pendent lives of any.
...May be they are simply great enough to
...receive without misgiving. Most think that
...they are above being supported by the
...town; but it often happens that they are
...not above supporting themselves by dis-
...honest means. Which should be more dis-
...reputable. Cultivate poverty like a garden
...herb, like sage. Do not trouble yourself
...much to get new things, whether clothes
...or friends. Turn the old, return to them.
...Things do not change; we change. Sell
...your clothes and keep your thoughts.
...If I were a boy again, I would practice m
...However mean your life is, meet
...change; we change. Sell
...and keep your thoughts.
...a boy again, I would practice per-
...ever mean your life is, meet it and
...It, do not shun it and call it hard
...nes. It is not so bad as you are. It looks
...poorest when you are richest. The fault-
...finder will find faults in
...life, poor as it is,
...some pleasant
...even in a poor



Hey Creative,

Welcome to Creative Process! I am honored to have you join this course designed just for you. Whether you're a seasoned artist, an aspiring writer, a visionary designer, or a curious thinker, this course is crafted to add value to your life. The inspiration behind the content comes from my own experiences. As a believer with a creative gift, I often found myself caught between two worlds: wanting to serve my local church while also wishing to share my gift with those outside its walls. Additionally, resources for creatives who feel called to both the sacred and secular were scarce, which made me feel like I didn't truly fit into the typical perception of serving within the Western Church. Those years of obscurity and perseverance produced wisdom, growth, and success. My hope is to share what I discovered along my journey with you.

What To Expect

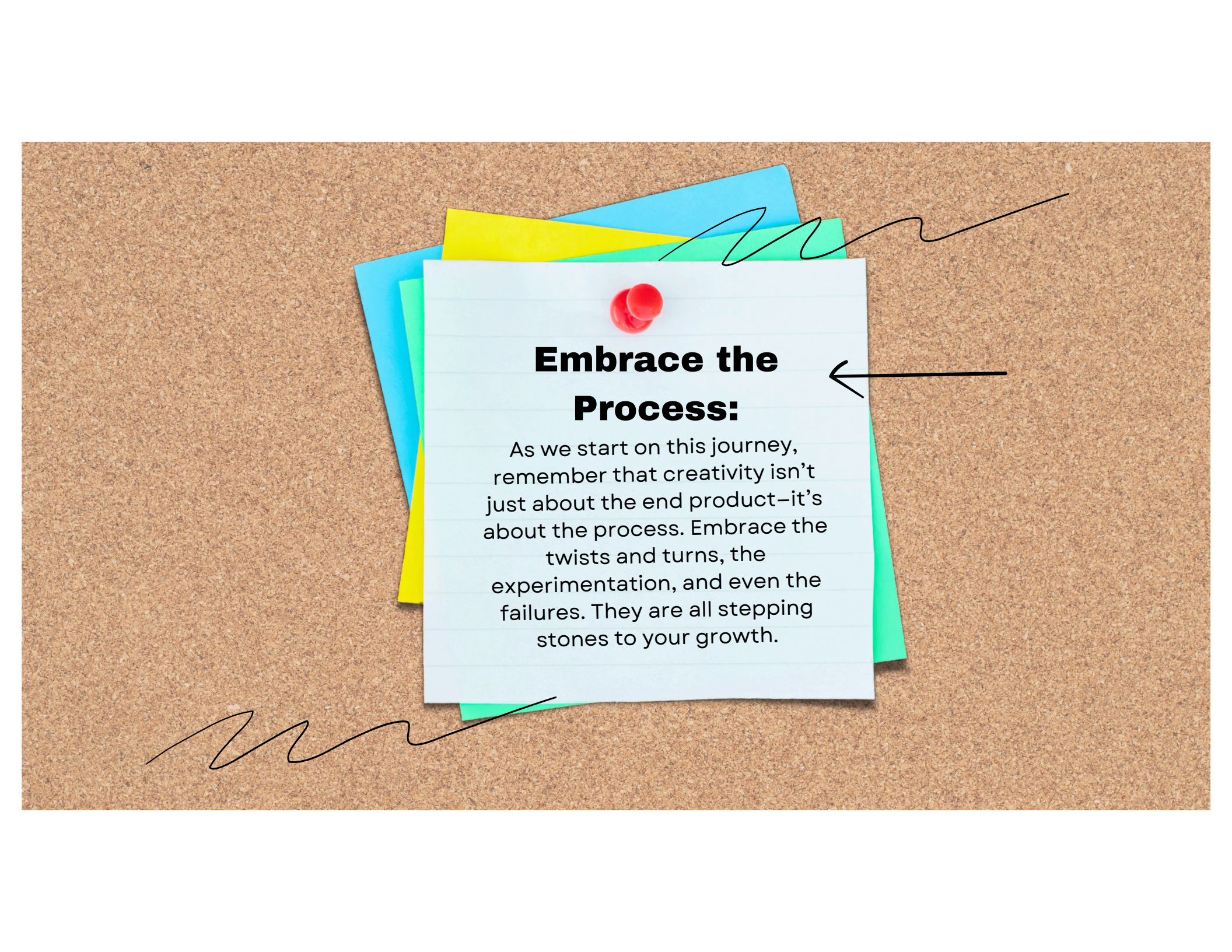
In the coming weeks, we'll dive deep into the heart of the creative. Not just the craft itself, but the inner work that ultimately affects what and how we create. Many artists become so focused on their gifts that they overlook personal growth, which can hinder their character development.

Our art flourishes when we do, and we should want our life to overflow into our art. We'll explore essential topics like influence, identity, and dreams, among others. Our interactive lessons will challenge and inspire you to think outside the box and fully embrace your uniqueness.

Connect

One of the most enriching aspects of this course is the community you'll be a part of. In addition to the recorded course material, we will also have live virtual sessions* where I will be hosting and speaking a little more in depth about certain topics covered in the course. It will also be a time for you to ask any questions you may have.

*Live virtual sessions schedule will be announced via email.




Embrace the Process:

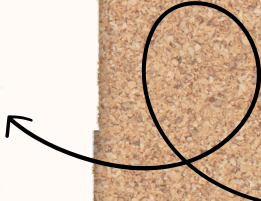

As we start on this journey, remember that creativity isn't just about the end product—it's about the process. Embrace the twists and turns, the experimentation, and even the failures. They are all stepping stones to your growth.



Section 1: Influence



Welcome to the first section of Creative Process, where we'll explore a fundamental aspect of a creatives life: Influence. In today's world, influence is a premium. From influencers, music, movies, commercials, and media, you can not escape it. It matters so much because in its essence influence is a bridge to many things. Brands, notoriety, delivering your message through your art, and ministry. Jesus had influence while on this earth. So much so that at times it was overwhelming while walking through different cities and crowds. I believe this definition reveals the weight and responsibility of influence. Influence- "The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself." This is all the more reason why we need to talk and explore this concept more.



How to
mismanage
your influence

How do I get
influence/What
is it?

**In this
section we
will explore:**

How to
manage your
influence
correctly:

Influence Part 1: Process and summary

Summary:

Our very first lesson discusses the theme of influence in the context of creativity, emphasizing that many people now identify as content creators and recognize the growing significance of social media influence. I truly believe that everyone possesses some form of influence, even if it doesn't match their expectations. A key step to growing your influence is to leverage your gifts from your current position rather than waiting for ideal circumstances. Using the example of a local restaurant that made a significant impact on me, the importance of cultivating genuine experiences over chasing going viral is indispensable.

Lastly, this lesson highlights that character and kindness are just as important as talent in maintaining and building lasting influence. Honor your small beginnings for potential growth.

Process:

In this section, we'll focus on laying a strong foundation. To truly benefit from the "Process" section, it's essential to embrace vulnerability. Remember, you are the only one who will read your reflections, so take your time and answer honestly.

What are my current areas of Influence? Try to think broadly. Not just about your creative influence.

Have/Do I view it as having influence?

Why or why not?

What are my current areas of Influence? Try to think broadly. Not just about your creative influence.	Have/Do I view it as having influence?	Why or why not?

Reframing Influence:

Can you identify a small goal you've accomplished recently? How did achieving this make you feel? Did you feel fulfilled, indifferent, or disappointed? And why?

Can you think of a time when you had to work your way up in a situation or project, and how did your progress affect your confidence or capabilities?

In what ways can we honor where we currently are to grow our to be a blessing to others?

Reflect on your current situation—what are three things you can do right now to make the most of it and potentially grow your influence?

Key scripture:
Zechariah 4:10

Influence Part 2: Mismanaging your Influence

Welcome to this critical lesson on mismanaging our influence, a topic that resonates deeply within both personal and professional spheres. In recent times, there seems to be no shortage of scandals and breaking news concerning people mismanaging their influence. Sadly, it seems to be a weekly occurrence. As we know, influence is a powerful tool. A gift that can inspire, motivate, and lead others toward positive change. However mismanaging the influence given to us can lead to significant consequences, both for yourself and those around you.

In a few moments we will explore the dual-edged nature of influence. We will examine biblical case studies that highlight the potential dangers of misusing influence—how it can lead to manipulation, foster distrust, and cause harm to individuals and communities. Later on, we will also see the profound importance of harnessing your influence responsibly. For every bad example, there are many more good examples of what to do.

By the end of this lesson, I believe that you will be equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of influence with integrity and purpose.

Influence Part 2: Mismanaging your Influence

Summary:

In this lesson, we emphasized the importance of managing influence effectively, distinguishing between divine influence from God and worldly influence. One of our scripture references was Psalm 75:6-7 to illustrate that God's influence is rooted in purpose for His kingdom, unlike the fleeting and often superficial nature of worldly influence, which is based on popularity, appearance, and talent. This lesson specifically highlights the dangers of mismanaging influence by drawing upon the biblical story of Saul, the first king of Israel, who ultimately failed in his responsibilities due to a lack of obedience and accountability. Saul's decision to spare the Amalekites, despite God's command to destroy them completely, serves as a cautionary tale about the potential consequences of prioritizing personal gain over divine obedience. Furthermore, it draws attention to the significance of maintaining one's moral compass and staying anchored in Jesus amidst a myriad of opportunities. It is crucial for us to recognize that every opportunity may not necessarily align with God's purpose. We should thrive to seek intimacy with God rather than merely pursuing chances for advancement or success. True influence and fulfillment come from obedience to Him rather than conforming to societal pressures. Obedience is more valuable than opportunities.

Influence Part 2: Mismanaging your Influence

Process:

Can you think of a time when you felt pressure to follow outside influence rather than what you believed was right? How did it make you feel?

Can you recall a situation where you chose obedience over a tempting opportunity? What did you learn from that experience?

How have you sometimes try to 'give God offerings' instead of obedience? What was the moment when you realized you were doing that?

No one ever believes they will become Saul until it happens. How can you practice staying in tune with God in your own life amidst opportunities and influence? What practical steps can you take today?

Influence Part 3: Managing Your Influence Correctly

Summary:

This lesson emphasizes the importance of managing our influence rather than feeling that we own it. Recognizing ourselves as managers of our gifts and responsibilities, rather than owners, can free us from unnecessary burdens. This shift in mindset allows us to approach our talents with humility, reflecting on how Jesus exemplified this through his own life by using his power for the benefit of others, rather than for self-serving ambitions. Just like Jesus, your gifts are intended for the service of others and we should manage our influence in a way that honors God's investment in us. Another key point in this lesson is the significance of understanding your identity in the context of influence. As our influence grows, it can introduce various pressures and opinions that may lead us away from our true selves. By grounding our identity in our relationship with Jesus, we are better equipped to navigate opportunities without compromising who we are. True fulfillment comes from knowing our identity in Him, rather than chasing after fleeting opportunities.

Influence Part 3: Managing your influence correctly

Process:

What does it mean to be a manager rather than an owner of your gifts and influence, and how can this perspective change your approach to your talents?

In what areas of your life can you start managing your talents instead of feeling like you own them? How might this change the way you interact with those around you?

Many creatives know where they want to go but not who they will be once they get there. Why do you think this distinction is important?

What steps can you take to ensure that you remain true to your identity as you pursue your goals? How does knowing your identity affect your decisions?

Why do you think it's important to find a community that supports you in your journey as a creative, as mentioned in the prayer towards the end of the lesson?