

EIGHT KINDS OF SMART! An Introduction to Multiple Intelligences Some Approached for Worship and Christian Education

This Material is based on the work of David Lazear and adapted for use in Church settings by Amelia Koh-Butler, ELM Associate Director (Education for Mission).

One of the ways to understand the Eight Kinds of Smart is to group them under three categories: the Object-Based Smarts, the Object-Free Smarts, and the Personal Smarts. Each section provides a description of the intelligences within the category, some indicators to evaluate the development of intelligences, a list of professions which might appeal to someone who is strong in a particular intelligence area, and examples to explore.

THE OBJECT-BASED SMARTS are:

- **ImageSmart** (visual-spatial intelligence)
- **LogicSmart** (logical-mathematical intelligence)
- **BodySmart** (bodily-kinesthetic intelligence)
- **NatureSmart** (naturalist intelligence).

THE OBJECT-FREE SMARTS are:

- **SoundSmart** (musical-rhythmic intelligence)
- **WordSmart** (verbal-linguistic intelligence)

THE PERSONAL SMARTS are

- **PeopleSmart** (interpersonal intelligence)
- **SelfSmart** (intrapersonal intelligence)

ImageSmart (a.k.a. "visual-spatial intelligence").

Some exercises to promote Visual-Spatial Awareness:

EXERCISE #1: Look for visual stimuli in your worship environment, such as symbols, images and banners, architectural patterns, shapes, or designs.

EXERCISE #2: During a time of worship, intensify your awareness of the colors around you and how they are affecting you, including the colors of furniture, flowers, bookmarks and decorations and the various color combinations in the clothes, make-up, jewelry, hair, colors, and so forth of people around you.

EXERCISE #3: When listening to a Prayer of Adoration or a Psalm, try to create a mental image or visualize what they are saying. Try to see it with them in your mind's eye!

EXERCISE #4: Anytime you make a note to yourself, draw a visual symbol to go along with your written note, for example someone you need to visit, something you must do tonight to prepare for tomorrow, a phone call you need to make, a sermon point, etc.

EXERCISE #5: Before entering a worship space, try to visualize what it is like. When you arrive, close your eyes and carefully walk around all the parts of the space trying to get a "blind sense" of the way worship will work.

Traditionally, worship has engaged various “Smarts” as follows:
(What else can you think of that stimulate engagement in these areas?)

- ImageSmart
 - Symbols
 - Banners
 - Flowers
 - Architecture
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- LogicSmart
 - Scriptural Referencing
 - Hymnal Numbering
 - Architecture
 - Liturgical Form
 -
- BodySmart
 - Standing/Sitting/Kneeling
 - Singing and Speaking
 - “Going Forward” or Receiving / walking a labyrinth
 - Physical Acts of Blessing – Laying on of hands / anointing
 -
- NatureSmart
 - Flowers
 - Use of Water / things of nature (e.g. produce of bread, wine, harvest)
 - Content of Scripture and Song
 -
- SoundSmart
 - Incidental Music / Bells
 - Hymnody and Singing
 - Proclamation and Spoken Response
 -
- WordSmart
 - Text of Liturgy
 - Scripture
 - Preaching
 - Hymnody
 -
- PeopleSmart
 - Meeters and Greeters
 - Passing the Peace
 - Sharing of Personal Stories
 - Prayers for One Another
 - Questions and discussions around the Sermon or Kids’ Talk
 -
- SelfSmart
 - Personal Confession
 - Testimonies
 - Periods of Self-reflection
 - Journal-work