

THE POWER OF GOD IN OUR TALENTS

JULY 3, 2016

INTRODUCTION

In Exodus chapters 25-31, God gave Moses instructions for building the Tabernacle, the place that His Spirit would dwell among the Israelites. The Tabernacle was a beautiful symbol of God’s plan of salvation and many of the details in the construction pointed to Christ. God gave special talents to two men – Bezalel and Oholiab – in order to create an exceptional dwelling place for The Power of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with your group your most dissatisfying work experience and what made it so frustrating, then share your most rewarding work experience and what made it so meaningful.
2. Read Exodus 25:1-2. God asked the Israelites to build a Tabernacle, and instructed them to bring an offering. What was the condition He placed on the offering? Why do you think He did this?
3. The command to be generous runs throughout the Bible. Read the following passages and list what you learn:

- Leviticus 25:35-37 _____
- Deuteronomy 15:7-8 _____
- Proverbs 21:13 _____
- Matthew 10:8 _____
- Acts 20:35 _____
- 2 Corinthians 9:5-7 _____
- James 2:14-17 _____

4. Read Exodus 25:8. Why did God tell Moses to build the Tabernacle? Was this accomplished? (See Exodus 40:34.) What was the ultimate fulfillment of God dwelling with us? (See John 1:14.)
5. Read Exodus 31:1-11 and 35:30-35. What special abilities/talents did God give to Bezalel and Oholiab? What ability was mentioned in 35:34? Why was this important?
6. The Israelites didn't just give an offering, they gave their skills. Women spun goat hair to make cloth, wood workers carved wood for the altars, weavers wove beautiful curtains, etc. For each task, God empowered people with skills to accomplish it (Exodus 31:6). The construction of the Tabernacle was a beautiful picture of a community joined together to willingly and joyfully create a place where people could meet God. What do you think we could accomplish if we generously and willingly use our God-given talents here at Fellowship?
7. What talent of yours is the Spirit calling you to use?

APPLICATION

Many times God-given talents and spiritual gifts go hand-in-hand. Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? If so, review them for next week's message. If not, take the online spiritual gifts assessment (<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>).

SCRIPTURE

³⁰Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³¹and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—³²to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ³³to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts. ³⁴And He has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. ³⁵He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.

Exodus 35:30-35