Exodus 25:1-9 & 31:1-11 Discussion Questions*

Building God's Dwelling Place

Focus on the Theme

1. What does the place where you live - your rooms, your decor, your furniture - say about you?

   How does it reflect your priorities, needs, and desires?

What Does the Bible Say?

2. Chapters 25-31 of Exodus detail the building of the tabernacle, a sanctuary for God. Why do you suppose there is so much detail?

3. On what basis are God's people to make an offering towards the building of the tabernacle (25:1-2)?

4. What is the main reason for building the tabernacle (25:8, and see 29:45-46 and 40:34)?

5. Bezalel is the first person in the Bible who is said to be 'filled' with the Spirit of God (31:3). What does the task he is given to do say about the role of the Spirit in our lives?

What other qualities and skills does God give to the builders of the tabernacle (31:3-6)? Which, if any, are unexpected?

Going Deeper

6. Skim through the chapters in this section (Exodus 25-31), making a quick summary of what each section is about.

7. Read Hebrews 9:1-28, in which the writer describes the tabernacle as 'only a copy of the true one... heaven itself' (9:24). In what ways has Christ fulfilled the different elements of the tabernacle?

Living it Out

8. We have said that the first part of Exodus shows how God frees his people *from* slavery, but what does the second part (with building instructions for the tabernacle) say about what God frees us *for*?

9. How do the examples of Bezalel and Oholiab (31:1-6) encourage us to see how God fills us with his Spirit, wisdom, and understanding as we go about our daily tasks?

10. God dwells in us as his new covenant people (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20, Ephesians 2:19-22). How does knowing this affect how we view our frontline contexts and our witness to Christ in those places?

Prayer Time

Reflecting on what we are freed *from* and freed *for*, express your thankfulness to God together.

Pray 'that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith' (Ephesians 3:17), transforming you more into his likeness and a result so that the home where he is pleased to live.

Offer the work of your hands to God - the work they will do, the support they will offer to others, the talent they will exercise, how they will represent your worship of God and your following of the way of Jesus.

*From Licc Exodus Study Guide by Antony Billington