

We now come to the final act in our study through Exodus. When we first started this journey, we described the book of Exodus as an epic display of God's rescue and redemption. And this is exactly what we have seen: a burning bush, ten plagues, the Red Sea parting, manna from heaven, water miraculously gushing from a rock, and new laws to guide and govern God's people.

As we step into this final section in Exodus, God's people have been rescued from their slavery in Egypt but God's great act of redemption is not finished. And so in Exodus 24 – 40 we find the promises God makes and the instructions God gives to guide his people through this life. Also in this section, God gives specific building instructions for a tabernacle so that he can dwell in the midst of his people as they travel through this life. Finally, this section closes with the construction of the tabernacle according to God's precise specifications and the glory of the LORD descending on the tabernacle.

This final section of Exodus helps us to see the end goal of redemption. God rescued his people from slavery because he wanted to establish a special relationship with them, a relationship in which God belonged to his people and his people belonged to him. In this special relationship, God's people became a set-apart nation and a special people who journeyed with their God into his Promised Land.

As we head into this final section in Exodus, remember that the story of Exodus is ultimately our story. We too are God's people. We too are drawn by God out of our slavery to sin and drawn into a new relationship with God. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God redeems us and makes us a holy nation and a people for his own possession. And, like the people of the first Exodus, we too journey with God into his Promised Land. This journey includes hardship, failure, grumbling, and brokenness. And yet, God is with us through it all, because we are the new tabernacle and God the Holy Spirit dwells with us.

As a preaching team, we are thankful for this series through Exodus. It has changed our lives and it has given us a greater confidence in the power and sufficiency of God's word. As we step into this final section in Exodus, we look forward to seeing the way Faith Church continues to change as each person at Faith better understands what it means to be called the people of God. Please share with us what God has done in your life during our series through Exodus. You can reach us by email at preaching@faithchurchfc.org. We love what we do and that we get to do it together.

Every Blessing,
Pastor Charlie for the Preaching Team

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INTRODUCTION TO SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

No one is born into this world with a theology. So each generation must rediscover the truths of Scripture for itself.

Preaching the Bible is one of the primary tools God has given the church for this to take place.

Small groups are the place where the preaching at Faith is applied and where our church is encouraged to live out God's word. Members of Faith's small groups take time each week to discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, share specific insights from the Bible, and care for one another so that, as a church, we grow up to maturity in Jesus.

This study guide has been put together to give you an overview of our current sermon series so that you know where we are going and so that you are prepared for great discussions in your small group.

Here is an overview of what you will find for each week in this study guide:

Main Passage – This is the passage the teaching pastor will preach from.

Secondary Passages – These passages help to unpack and explain the main passage.

Passage for Memorization and Meditation – This is one passage to memorize and meditate on throughout the week so that at all times you are giving Jesus an opportunity to work in your life.

Overview – This is an overview of what will be discussed in small group this week.

Opening Question – This is a general question meant to spark conversation.

Discussion Questions – These are questions related to the Bible passages.

Application Questions – These are questions and ideas for applying the Bible to your life.

Table Time With Kids – These are questions and ideas for families with young kids.

These materials are not meant to be a rigid formula for your small group, but rather a means for intentional study, discussion and life application so that ultimately, as a church, we grow together to maturity in Jesus.

We hope you find this helpful.

SMALL GROUPS AT FAITH

What is a small group?

Small groups at Faith are small gatherings of people from Faith that meet regularly for friendship, prayer and Bible study.

Each small group is unique because it is shaped by the people who attend. However, at the heart of each small group is a desire to see a tight-knit community form that is marked by a growing love for Jesus and for the other people in the small group.

Why should I join a small group?

We are made for friendship with God and others. When we are not known and loved by others, we suffer because we are not experiencing all that God created us to experience. Additionally, life is too difficult to journey alone. Therefore, small groups are a place where we can connect in friendship with other people through the ups and downs of life.

How do I get connected to a small group?

The easiest way to get connected to a small group is to go to www.faithchurchfortcollins.org/small_group. You can also sign up on Sunday by filling out the Bluebook. Finally, if you would like to join a small group, you can call the church at 970-226-2095.

Title: The Covenant

Main Passage: Exodus 24

Secondary Passages: Matthew 26:26-29; Hebrews 10:1-23

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Overview: God wants to have a special relationship with us. In the Bible this special relationship is called a covenant. A covenant is a sacred relationship established by God, in which God unconditionally belongs to his people and his people unconditionally belong to him.

In Exodus 24 we see God's people confirm their covenant with God by doing three things. First, they listened to God's word because God's word had been given to guide them through this life. Second, they declared their desire to follow God's word for the rest of their life. And finally, they were sprinkled by blood because they would never follow God's word perfectly. They were sinners in need of a great savior.

These three activities continue to be done by God's people today to confirm our eternal covenant with God.

We too listen to God's word regularly. This is done privately as we read the Bible for ourselves. But this is also done publicly as we gather together on Sundays to hear God's word read and taught in worship.

We too declare our desire to follow God's word. At times this is done privately. Perhaps after we read a portion of the Bible we say to God in prayer, "I will follow you in this area of my life. I will surrender my pride or my hurt to Jesus."

And yet, like God's people during the time of the Exodus, we don't follow God perfectly, so we too are covered by blood. The main difference between us and God's people during the time of the Exodus is that we are covered not with the blood of goats and bulls, but instead we are covered with the precious blood of Jesus. His blood cleanses us from all iniquity and was spilled to establish an eternal covenant between God and his people. As such, everyone who believes in Jesus has a right relationship with God. They belong to God unconditionally, and God belongs unconditionally to them.

Opening Question

- Talk about a special relationship that you have with somebody. What makes that relationship special? What do you do to cultivate that relationship?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 24:1-18. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 24:1-18?

- What three things do God's people do to confirm their covenant with God?
- Why is listening to God's word an important part of establishing a relationship with God?
- Why is declaring your desire to follow God's word an important part of establishing a relationship with God?
- Why is being covered in blood an important part of establishing a relationship with God?
- What does being covered in blood signify about our ability to follow God?

Application Questions

- How are you challenged or encouraged knowing that God wants to have a relationship with you?
- What helps you to listen to God's word?
- What creates in you a desire to follow God?
- When you fail to follow God, what helps you to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for you?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 24:1-18. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 24:1-18?
- What things help God's people to have a relationship with God? *Hearing God's word, declaring their desire to follow him, and embracing Jesus, the substitute God provides for their sin.*

Title: The Tabernacle

Main Passage: Exodus 25-27

Secondary Passages: 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; John 1:14; Hebrews 10:19-20

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Overview: In this section of Exodus God gives precise details for the construction of the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a portable tent where God's people worshipped God by offering sacrifices to him. It was supported by a wooden framework and draped with colorful curtains and animal skins. It was God's house, and as the Israelites made their trek through the wilderness, they took it with them.

The note on the tabernacle in the ESV Study Bible points out two keys to understanding the symbolism of the tabernacle:

First, the tabernacle is seen as a tented palace for Israel's divine king. He is enthroned on the Ark of the Covenant in the innermost Holy of Holies (the Most Holy Place). His royalty is symbolized by the purple of the curtains and his divinity by the blue. The closer items are to the Holy of Holies, the more valuable are the metals (bronze→ silver→ gold) of which they are made.

The other symbolic dimension is Eden. The tabernacle, like the Garden of Eden, is where God dwells, and various details of the tabernacle suggest it is a "mini-Eden". These parallels include the east-facing entrance guarded by cherubim, the gold, the tree of life (lampstand), and the tree of knowledge (the law). Thus God's dwelling in the tabernacle was a step toward the restoration of paradise, which is to be completed in the new heaven and earth (see Revelation 21-22).¹

As we study the tabernacle, it is important to notice that God was the architect of the tabernacle and his instructions for its construction were not haphazard. The pattern of the tabernacle was precisely given by God to provide a picture of Jesus and his work on the cross for us. So when Jesus came to this earth, John said that "the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us."² In other words, the tabernacle was a pattern of what was to come. So God did not leave it to mankind to determine what the tabernacle should look like. He had a plan and a purpose for each part.

Opening Question

- What is the most impressive thing you have ever built or assembled?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 25 - 27. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 25-27?

1 ESV Study Bible

2 John 1:14

- Why do you think God was so concerned to record the smallest detail and measurement of the tabernacle? Why do you think God recorded these precise details for us to read, versus giving us a more general summary of the tabernacle?
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 6:16, John 1:14, and Hebrews 10:19–20. What does the tabernacle ultimately point to?
- The tabernacle would have taken a massive amount of time, energy, and talent to build. Why do you think God was adamant that building the tabernacle was to be one of the first things his people did after he set them free from slavery in Egypt?

Application Questions

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 says we are corporately the temple of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit dwells in our midst. Additionally, 1 Corinthians 6:19 says our individual bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. What is your response to this reality? How does that truth change the way you live? How is this reality better than what God's people had in the tabernacle?
- The Ark of the Covenant was where God met with Moses. Where do you go to meet with God during the week?
- The top of the Ark of the Covenant was called the mercy seat. Why do you think God placed mercy at the central part of the tabernacle? What was he trying to communicate to his people?
- How can you make God's mercy a central part of your life?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 25-27. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 25-27?
- Why did God give such detailed instructions about the tabernacle? *The tabernacle pointed people to Jesus.*
- What was at the center of the tabernacle? *The mercy seat.*
- What is mercy? *Mercy is not giving someone a punishment they deserve. Because of sin we all deserve death, but God is rich in mercy and so he gives us forgiveness, grace, and love.*
- The Ark of the Covenant was where God met with Moses. Where does your family gather together to meet with God?

Title: The Priests

Main Passage: Exodus 28-30

Secondary Passages: Hebrews 4:14-5:10; Hebrews 10:19-22; Leviticus 16

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

Overview: In this section of Exodus, God gives precise details for the priests and the sacrifices that need to be made to consecrate the priests. As with the tabernacle, God is very detailed in this section of Exodus because the priests and the sacrifices made on their behalf are a picture of Jesus, the great high priest.

So from the priests' garments we learn that the great high priest will come from heaven. This is seen in the reality that everything in the priests' garments is made from the same material as the tabernacle. In fact, all the colors in the garments are the same as those of the curtains in the Holy of Holies. So the great high priest will come from the very presence of God.

Additionally, from the priests' garments we learn that the great high priest will represent God's people to God and he will be responsible for God's people. This is seen in the precious stones that are woven into the breastpiece of judgment. Each stone represents one of the tribes of Israel, and the priest was commanded to wear these stones over his shoulders as he walked into the presence of God. In this, God was revealing that the great high priest would represent God's people to God, and he would be responsible for God's people when it came to God's just judgment of sin.

Finally, the priests had to be consecrated to God. This communicated that the great high priest to come would be fully consecrated to God. He would live a perfect life, surrendered to God's will and ways. We see this reality perfectly portrayed by Jesus who lived a perfect life and in the Garden of Gethsemane prayed, "Not my will, but yours, be done."¹

In Exodus 30, God also gave detailed instructions about the sacrifices that were to be made by the priests because the sacrifices were a picture of what Jesus would do for us. His sacrifice would make a way for us to be continually pleasing to God, and his sacrifice would make a way for God to dwell continually with us.

So this week as we study the priests and the sacrifices, remember that God is precise because he is preparing his people to see and to receive Jesus, the great high priest.

Opening Question

- What symbols do you have that remind you of a greater reality? Maybe it's a wedding ring, a tattoo, a picture, an expensive piece of clothing, or a piece of jewelry.

1 Luke 22:42

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 28-30. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 28-30?
- Why do you think God designed such an involved process for clothing and consecrating the priests?
- What did the sacrifices in Exodus 30 accomplish? For more on the Day of Atonement, see Leviticus 16.
- What does the instruction from God in these chapters indicate about God's commitment to prepare his people to see and embrace Jesus?
- Read Hebrews 4:14–5:10. How is Jesus the fulfillment of the priests and the sacrificial system?
- Read Hebrews 10:19–22. Why do Christians today get to approach God with confidence?
- Though God declared all Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6), he still appointed a special group to a formal priesthood. How do you see this idea carried forward in the church today?
- Based on the role of the priest in the Old Testament, what should be the role of pastors/ministry leaders in the church today?

Application Questions

- What are some unhealthy ways to view our church leaders?
- What are some healthy ways to view our church leaders?
- How does knowing that Christ is our great high priest free us to regard church leaders in a healthy way?
- Do you feel like you can approach God with confidence? Why or why not?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 30:10 and Leviticus 16. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 30:10 and Leviticus 16?
- Do you have to be perfect to be in a relationship with God? *No. Jesus was perfect for you. All you need to do is to trust in Jesus and you can approach God with confidence.*

Title: Work And Rest

Main Passage: Exodus 31

Secondary Passages: Hebrews 4:1-11; Matthew 11:25-30

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Overview: Work and rest are part of the good rhythm God wove into creation. In the beginning, God worked. And in the beginning, God rested from his work.

Since we are made in God's image, each person has been created to produce, cultivate, and create, not merely to gain money from work to survive, but because each person needs the work itself to survive and live a fully human life. Additionally, each person has been created to enjoy leisure, rest, and relaxation, not simply to get away from work, but to enjoy the fruit of work and to cultivate love, pleasure, and connection.

Sadly, since sin impacted this world, both work and rest have been hard. In a fallen world, work is often frustrating, exhausting, and can feel fruitless. As such, we can quickly jump to the conclusion that work is to be avoided or simply endured. When it comes to rest in a fallen world, we struggle to embrace it because we fear that stepping back from work will mean something important doesn't get done.

In Exodus 31 God reveals the beauty of work and rest. In this chapter we see that God clearly gifts people for work and that work brings great glory to him. And yet work isn't ultimate. And so God also reminds his people what is ultimate: "Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you."¹ In other words, resting reminds us that there is more to life than work. There is a God who is working for us. As such, we can power down and enjoy life.

Practically, what Exodus 31 means is that every Christian should be able to identify, with conviction and satisfaction, the ways in which their work participates with God in displaying his creativity and the cultivation of his creation. Additionally, every Christian should be able to identify tangible ways that they regularly enjoy the fruit of their work and their God who is working to change them.

Opening Question

- What was your first job? What did you enjoy about it?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 31. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 31?
- What do you learn about work from Exodus 31?

1 Exodus 31:13

- What do you learn about rest from Exodus 31?
- Who gifted and called Bezalel and Oholiab? What does this reveal about your gifts and calling to work?
- Why do you think God says, *Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths*?
- What does keeping the Sabbath teach God's people?
- Look at Matthew 11:25–30 and Hebrews 4:1–11. What do you learn about rest from these passages?

Application Questions

- What is your overall view of work? Do you enjoy it, endure it, or avoid it?
- In what ways has God gifted and called you?
- What is your overall view of rest?
- What does work and rest look like in your life? Do you feel like you need to make any adjustments to how you work or how you rest based on Exodus 31?
- In what ways has knowing Jesus brought rest to your soul?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 31. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 31?
- Is work a good thing? *Yes. God created us to work.*
- Is rest a good thing? *Yes. God created us to rest and experience pleasure.*
- What kinds of jobs could you do around the house to begin glorifying God through work?
- What kinds of things could you do as a family to rest and to cultivate love, fun, and connection with God?

Title: Idolatry And Intercession

Main Passage: Exodus 32

Secondary Passages: 1 Corinthians 10:1-14; Hebrews 7:25; Psalm 106:23

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

Overview: In Exodus 32, we see the reality that God's people are often quick to fall into idolatry. After being rescued by the LORD and seeing him work in supernatural ways to provide, guide, and protect, the Israelites forgot God's goodness and turned to an idol to entertain and satisfy them and to worship.

In Exodus 32, we find that God's response to idolatry wasn't passive indifference. He was angered and his wrath was kindled, because he is jealous for the affection of his people, so much so that God prepared to destroy his people. In other words, God would prefer to have his people dead than watch them worship something that is false. This may seem severe, but that is because we do not fully understand the depth of God's glory. He alone can satisfy and save. Therefore, for him not to be angered by idolatry would be unholy, unkind, and untrue.

In Exodus 32, we also see that Moses interceded on behalf of God's people: He asked the LORD to withhold the terrible judgment that the Israelites rightly deserved. In doing this, Moses points us to Jesus who intercedes on our behalf.¹

To intercede means to stand between two parties. Psalm 106:23 describes Moses' actions as standing in the breach. The imagery is that of standing astride a chasm between two cliffs, and bridging the gap. Jesus did this for us by living the perfect life we were called to live and dying the death we deserved for our idolatry.

As we look at Exodus 32, it is important to see that we too can fall into idolatry, and through this passage God is confronting the idols in our lives.

So briefly, what is an idol? An idol is more than a statue of gold that primitive people worship. An idol is anything that absorbs our attention more than God. It is anything so central to our lives that, should we lose it, our life would hardly feel worth living. An idol is anything we look to, to provide what only God can provide. It is anything we look at and say in our heart of hearts, "If I have that, then I'll feel that my life has meaning, then I'll know that I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure."

So an idol could be our career, our kids, a hobby, a romantic relationship, a glass of wine, our parents' approval, a certain amount of money in the bank or a certain number on a scale that tells us we have value. Truth be told, we can and we do make idols out of everything, and we do this not just some of the time, we do this all of the time. As such, we need a great intercessor. We are wrong to think we will never fall into idolatry. And yet there is hope for us. God knows our weakness, and he has provided everything we need in Jesus.

1 Hebrews 7:25

Opening Question

- What are good things that you look to for comfort, security, and pleasure?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 32. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 32?
- What needs and desires do you think motivated God's people to construct the golden calf?
- What was God's response to idolatry?
- How is Aaron an example of how not to respond to idolatry?
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:1–14. What forms of idolatry make their way into the church?
- What you learned about intercession from Exodus 32:11–14, 31–32?
- Read Hebrews 7:25. What do you think Jesus' intercession for us looks like?

Application Questions

- In practical terms, how can we flee from idolatry?
- In practical terms, how should we respond when we see idolatry in our hearts?
- What things are you tempted to value/love more than God?
- Read Exodus 32:24 again. Have you ever lied to cover up something wrong? How did it go for you?
- What things do you go to for comfort, security, pleasure, or peace? Have any of these good things become an idol to you?
- How does knowing that Jesus lives to make intercession for you empower you to repent when God confronts the idols in your life?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 32. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 32?
- Read Exodus 32:24 again. Have you ever lied to cover up something wrong? How did it go for you?
- Was God angry when his people turned to a false god? *Yes. God was angry when his people turned away from him because he knew that he alone can satisfy them.*
- Can Christians turn away from God? *Yes. We can lose our first love. In these moments, God invites us to return to him and experience his forgiveness and grace.*
- What happens if we continue to worship false gods? *Life becomes hard and not enjoyable.*
- What did God do to help us when we commit idolatry? *He gave us Jesus, who lives to help us when we fail.*

Title: Meeting With God

Main Passage: Exodus 33-34

Secondary Passages: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Psalm 27:4; Hebrews 1:3

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Overview: : In this section of Exodus, Moses got to see someone he really, really wanted to see. He got to see a glimpse of God's glory and it transformed his life—so much so that Moses' face was actually shining after his encounters with God.

The implication of Moses' encounter with God is breathtaking. Seeing God is transformative. Beholding glory changes us. It is for this reason that the psalmist longs to be in God's presence.¹

The good news is that now in Jesus we too can behold the glory of God because Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature.² And so like Moses we can meet with God as a man meets with a friend. As a matter of fact, we have greater access to God than Moses had, because sin in Moses' time had not yet been fully dealt with and Jesus had not yet come. So Moses could only catch a fleeting glimpse of the backside of God's glory. And yet in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we see the glory of God fully. And as we behold this glory, we too are changed.

Opening Question

- Have you ever really, really wanted to meet someone—maybe a famous athlete, musician, or author? Who? And why them?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 33-34. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 33-34?
- Describe the relationship between Moses and the Lord.
- What did seeing God's glory do to Moses? What does this reveal about God's glory?
- In what ways was Moses' life changed by his encounters with God?
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. What does this passage reveal about the impact that encountering God has on us?
- Read Hebrews 1:3. What does this verse reveal about Jesus?
- Read Psalm 27:4. How would you describe the psalmist's desire to be with God?

1 See Psalm 27:4

2 Hebrews 1:3

Application Questions

- How would you feel about having an encounter with God that transformed your life?
- How would you describe your relationship with God?
- Who do you know who radiates the glory of God in their speech and actions?
- How have you experienced and encountered God in your life?
- In what ways has encountering God transformed your life?
- What habits do you have that help you regularly behold the glory of the Lord in Jesus?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 33:7-11. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 33:7-11?
- Where did Moses go to meet with God? *Moses went to the tent of meetings.*
- What happened when Moses went to meet with God? *God spoke to Moses like a man speaks to his friend.*
- Does God want to meet with you like he met with Moses? *Yes. This is why God sent Jesus to live and die for us. He made a way for us to meet with God.*
- What helps you to meet with God?

Title: A Generous People

Main Passage: Exodus 35-36

Secondary Passage: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Overview: In this section of Exodus God's people generously give their time, talents, and treasures for the construction of the tabernacle. The gifts were not given out of guilt or reluctance, nor were the leaders manipulative or gaining from the generosity of God's people. On the contrary, each person gave according to the prompting and provision they received from the Lord, and all the gifts were used for the construction of the tabernacle.¹

This is a great pattern for us to follow in our giving. The gifts of our time, treasures, and talents should be used to advance God's work in this world. Additionally, like God's people in Exodus 35, we too should give according to what God has given us, and we should give based on the promptings we receive from the Holy Spirit.

We can be sure these promptings will encourage us to be generous because generosity is one of the central attributes of God. In the Bible we see that God the Father gave us his Son.² God the Son gave us his life.³ And God the Spirit gives us power and new life in Jesus.⁴ When we consider all that God gives, we quickly realize there is no being in the universe more generous than God, and God reveals that we have been made in his image.⁵

Part of our calling as image bearers of God is to reflect his generosity in his world by giving generously of our time, talents, and treasures. When we live out this calling, a deep satisfaction sits in our souls because we are doing what we were made to do – we are reflecting the God who made us to love and glorify him. This is why the Bible says it is more blessed to give than to receive.⁶

Don't rush past this reality. We are more blessed when we give. Life is more full when we give. Our hearts are more satisfied when we give. It is more blessed to give than to receive. This is a stunning statement, especially in a culture where our value is partially determined by how much we have.

So as you jump into Exodus 35, remember: God's people are generous people.

Opening Question

- What talent do most admire in other people?

1 See Exodus 35:21-29

2 John 3:16

3 Matthew 20:28

4 Acts 1:8; John 6:63

5 Genesis 1:26-27

6 Acts 20:35

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 35–36. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 35-36?
- What do you learn about generosity from Exodus 35-36?
- How do you see people using their time, talents, and treasures to serve the Lord in Exodus 35-36?
- In Exodus 36:5–7, the craftsmen ask Moses to tell the people to stop giving. Why do you think God’s people were so extravagantly generous that they had to be asked to stop giving? What does this tell you about their attitude toward their possessions?
- Think back over the narrative of Exodus. Where did God’s people get their possessions? Do you think this would make it easier or harder for them to be generous?

Application Questions

- What gifts and talents has the Lord given you? Why do you think God made you the way that he did?
- What skills or gifts do you possess that could be used or used more faithfully to serve the church?
- Do you think it is important to give generously of your time, talents, and treasures specifically to a local church? Explain your answer.
- What things keep you from being generous with your time, talents, and treasures?
- The people’s exacting work serves as an example to us. What corners are you most prone to cut when it comes to generously giving your time, talents, and treasures?
- Consider your own attitude towards your time, talents, and treasures. What lesson can you take away from the generosity of God’s people in Exodus 35? What adjustments to your perspective on your time, talents, and treasures need to take place?
- What are some practical ways you can be generous this week?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 35. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 35?
- How do you see people using their time, talents, and treasures to serve the Lord in Exodus 35?
- Who gave you your time, talents, and treasures? *God has given all things to you.*
- What does God want you to do with what he has given? *God wants you to use what he has given to be generous.*
- Is God generous? *Yes. God is the most generous being in the universe.*
- What does it mean to be generous? *Being generous means being willing and ready to give more of something, like money or time, than is necessary or expected.*
- ***As a family, come up with some fun ways that you can give. Help your kids to be part of the giving. Help them to see that being a giver is part of being made in God’s image.***

Title: Pictures Of Glory

Main Passage: Exodus 37-38

Secondary Passages: Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1-6

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.

Romans 1:20

Overview: God is a personal God. He wants to be known. So he graciously reveals himself to us. ¹ He does this through his word, through creation, through Jesus and through different symbols and signs that he clearly gives to his people.

The tabernacle and its furnishings are all symbols that reveal something about God. God designed them to show what he is like, what kind of relationship he was to have with his people, and what must be done to establish and maintain our relationship with him.

For example, the ark was a portable wooden box covered with gold. At the center of the ark was the mercy seat revealing to God's people that at the center of their relationship with God there was mercy. Three sacred things were placed inside of the ark. ² The first was manna, the bread that God provided for the Israelites during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. This bread reminded God's people that God would always provide for them. The second item in the ark was Aaron's staff. God miraculously caused Aaron's staff to sprout to confirm that God had chosen Aaron to spiritually lead his people as the high priest. So the staff revealed to the Israelites God's spiritual authority over them. The third item in the ark was God's covenant, written in stone. The covenant was a permanent reminder of God's promises and laws to his people. So the covenant revealed God's desire to bless and lead his people to life. The ark ultimately points us to Jesus who is the bread of heaven, ³ the great high priest, ⁴ and the one who established an eternal covenant with his blood. ⁵

This week as you study the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering, the bronze basin, and the outer court consider what these things reveal about God, how these things point to Jesus, and what these things teach about being in relationship with God.

Opening Question

- If you had been a worker who helped build the tabernacle, what tasks could you have performed? Which ones would you have been terrible at performing?

1 Psalm 19:1-6 and Romans 1:20

2 See Exodus 16:32; Numbers 17:10 and Deuteronomy 31:24-26

3 John 6:32-35

4 Hebrews 4:14-16

5 Hebrews 13:20

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 37-38. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What does the furniture in the tabernacle tell us about God?
- What does the furniture in the tabernacle tell us about what it means to live with God?
- The ark is described as having four poles on the sides so that it could be lifted up without a person having to touch the ark. Why do you think no one could touch the ark? What is God revealing about himself in not allowing people to touch the ark?
- In what ways does the furniture in the tabernacle point to Jesus and his work for us?
- In what ways does the furniture in the tabernacle reveal the reality that God wants to have a personal relationship with his people?

Application Questions

- What symbols and signs help you to remember who God is and what God has done for you?
- The tabernacle was something that God's people carried with them to remind them of God's presence and power. How do you daily remind yourself of God's presence and power?
- From the outside, the tabernacle would have looked fairly unassuming, even a bit plain. But for those who entered it and passed from the outer court to the Holy of Holies, it would have increasingly revealed beauty, glory, and wealth. How is this an accurate portrayal of going deeper in your understanding and love for Jesus? How has Jesus become more precious to you over the years?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 37-38. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 37-38?
- Does God want to be known? *Yes. He is a personal God so he reveals himself to his people.*
- How does God reveal himself to us? *He reveals himself to us in the Bible, in creation, in Jesus and through different signs and symbols.*
- **Parents, this week look for creative ways to remind your children who God is and what God has done for them. It could be giving them a special treat to remind them that God loves to give good things to his people or playing a game with them to remind them that God invites us to play and laugh with him.**

Title: A Picture Of Grace

Main Passage: Exodus 39

Secondary Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

Overview: Have you ever done something so wrong that you wondered if God would ever love you again? Have you ever done something so terrible that you wondered if perhaps God would ever work through you again?

Aaron certainly did. Although he was chosen by God to help Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt and he was chosen to lead God's people spiritually as a high priest, Aaron failed. We saw this back in Exodus 32. While Moses was receiving the law from the Lord, Aaron was receiving gold from God's people to make an idol. Additionally, when Moses confronted Aaron about his failure, he didn't confess his sin. Instead he came up with lame excuses for why the idol existed. At this point in his life, I wonder if Aaron thought God was through with him. I wonder if he worried that his failure would mean he was not worthy to serve God any longer.

Yet in Exodus 39 we see that Aaron did serve God again. He was anointed high priest. He was given another chance to live out his calling before God. He was invited back into the very presence of God, and he was allowed to serve God's people again.

This is a beautiful picture of grace. Aaron was fallen and forgiven. He was broken and blessed. The message of Exodus 39 is the good news God is offering all through the Bible. It's the good news God continues to offer today. Our failures do not remove his power to forgive and restore, and our brokenness doesn't get in the way of him restoring us and doing good work through us. Paul says it like this in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

I wonder if Aaron teared up a bit at the good news that grace meant another chance. His past passed away and he got another shot at being a priest before God.

Opening Question

- What is some of the best news you have ever heard?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 39. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 39?
- Considering Aaron's failure with making the golden calf, what do you learn about God's grace from Exodus 39?

- How many times does the phrase “as the Lord commanded Moses” appear in Exodus 39? What does this reveal about God’s desire for his leaders to follow him?
- What happens to God’s people when they follow God’s commands?
- In what ways is Exodus 39 a stark contrast to what happens in Exodus 32?
- What do you think Aaron thought after his failure in Exodus 32?
- Read Exodus 40:12–15. What do you think Aaron thought after his consecration to the Lord?
- How does 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 parallel Aaron’s life in the book of Exodus?

Application Questions

- Have you ever felt like your failures would mean that you could not serve God again?
- How are you encourage by God’s grace to Aaron?
- What are some ways that you currently struggle to be obedient to the Lord?
- What helps you to do as the Lord commands you?
- Based on God’s grace to Aaron, how should you respond when you fail to do all that God commands you to do?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 39. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 39?
- Did Aaron fail to lead God’s people spiritually? *Yes. As a matter of fact, Aaron led God’s people to idolatry.*
- Did Aaron’s failure mean God was done using him? *No. God continued to love and pursue Aaron.*
- ***Parents, this week look for opportunities to teach your children that God is a gracious God. He does not give us what our sin deserves. Instead, he gives grace, forgiveness, and love.***

Title: It Is Finished

Main Passage: Exodus 40

Secondary Passages: Genesis 1, Revelation 21-22

Passage for Memorization and Meditation:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:1-4

Overview: Exodus began with a people enslaved in Egypt. They had neither hope nor a future. They were not able to save or rescue themselves. They were forced to work under the hot sun, their children were ruthlessly slaughtered, and they were not able to change their fortune. Literally, God's people had nothing going for them. But they had their God.

And this made all the difference in the world, because their God listened and responded to their prayers. He remembered the promises he made to them and he worked in powerful ways to rescue them from their slavery.

After being rescued from slavery, God drew his people into a special relationship with himself. He gave them signs and symbols to better understand who he was and what it looked like to follow him. He gave promises and laws to lead them to life. And he provided plans for them to build a place to meet with him and foretell the gospel story until Jesus came to live and die in our place and for our sins.

The story of Exodus then closes, much like the Bible begins and ends. God drew near to his people. He dwelt among them in a tangible way. This is the most glorious thing that anyone can ever experience and the great message of the Bible—the message that all of Exodus is pointing to—is that we can experience this by trusting in Jesus. In Jesus God descends and dwells with us. This is why at the cross Jesus said *It is finished*, and as he spoke these words the curtain in the temple was torn in two, signifying that we have full access to God through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

The Bible promises that one day Jesus will come again, and when he does, he will come on the clouds of heaven with power and glory. On that day there will be no need for any tabernacle, or temple, or church, or Bible because Jesus will take us into the very presence of God, and we will see God in all his glory.

So this is the great message of Exodus, as it relates to Jesus: "Once we were in bondage to sin, enslaved by its tyranny. But through the death and resurrection of Jesus—our Passover Lamb—God has delivered us from the Egypt of our sin. Now he is leading us through our earthly wilderness, with all its difficulties and dangers. The great God of the exodus will never leave us or forsake us. In the church he has set up a tabernacle where even now we may enter his presence for worship. And one day soon Jesus will come down in glory to take us up into the glory that will never end. Everyone who trusts in him will be saved for the glory of God."

Opening Question

- What is the longest journey that you have ever taken? How did you feel when you came to the end of it all?

Discussion Questions

- Read Exodus 40. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 40?
- How is Jesus the great fulfillment of Exodus 40:16–33?
- God gave specific plans for a place to be created for him to dwell with his people. Exodus then closes with God descending to inhabit his place and dwell with his people. What does this reveal about God? What parallels do you see to Revelation 21:1–5?
- How is God dwelling with his people the culmination of a story of rescue and redemption? In what way would the story of rescue be incomplete if Exodus ended after God's people crossed the Red Sea?

Application Questions

- Think back over our time in Exodus. What story or passage stands out to you the most? What truths do you most want to remember and apply to your life? How has God changed your life during this series?

Table Time with Kids

- What was the sermon from Sunday about? What questions do you have from it?
- As a family, read aloud Exodus 40. What sticks out to you from these verses?
- What do you learn about God from Exodus 40?
- Does God want to dwell with his people? *Yes. As a matter of fact God provided everything necessary for him to dwell with his people.*
- ***As a family, think back over your time in Exodus. What story or passage stands out to you the most? What truths do you most want to remember and apply to your life? How has God changed your life during this series?***