

# BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

## Small Group Study Guide: Exodus

Week of November 26 (Week 12)

Exodus 35–40



### Sermon Overview

Since the 25th chapter of Exodus, we see God giving his people detailed instructions for the tabernacle and the elements to reside within. Every measurement, material, position and purpose is communicated. The purpose of the tabernacle was not to give Israel an authorized place to worship. It was about the presence of God in their midst. God did more than tell Israel what he wanted from them. He provided the actual design for it. This is clear from his words to Moses, “In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, so you shall make it.” (Exodus. 25:9)

The principle that God’s design precedes God’s building is true of Israel’s tabernacle, as well as the New Testament worldwide community of Christians (1 Corinthians. 3:5-18). God’s plan and work gives dignity and purpose to human work.

But, in a sinful and fallen world, it is easy to see work as drudgery or a necessary evil. This, however, is not God’s design. In Genesis 2 we see God completing the work of creation that prepares the way for his crowning creation: humans. Genesis shows us that work is not a necessary evil. Work is necessary *worship*. When we work we reflect God’s creative and generous nature. This makes our daily activities and fulfillment of our calling issues of the heart – the application of our calling through Jesus Christ, not tolerating a job through the force of our will. So, the question presents itself new every day: will we chose worship?

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### Getting Started

What is the worst/least favorite job you’ve ever had?

### Starting with God

1. Why does God command his people to build a tabernacle? (See Exodus25:8; 29:45) Do you believe the reason for the tabernacle gave added incentive to its construction?

## Living God's Word

2. In Exodus 35–40 God commands and equips his people to complete the work he has planned. Obviously (Genesis 1–2), God does not need any help creating what he sees fit. Why do you think God gave the Israelites so much responsibility in the construction of the tabernacle?
  
3. Read Exodus 35:4-19. What were the items required to build God's tabernacle?
  
4. Why was it so important that every detail of God's design be followed in the construction process?
  
5. Read Genesis 2:5-9. What correlation do you see between the work God completes and the work he designs for us?
  
6. How does knowing that our work or calling is worshipful with eternal purpose change your attitude about how you spend your day?

## Prayer

Father God, thank you for the blessing of work. Please renew our hearts and minds to see your purpose and design for our lives – to worship you in all we do, with all our lives.

Amen.