



SDG Discussion Guide

Exodus 25-31; 35-40

November 26, 2017

For starters:

What's the most notable or interesting thing you've ever crafted or constructed?

What is the most awe-inspiring church building you can remember being inside? Did it inspire you to worship God? Why or why not?

What is your favorite smell or fragrance? Why?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. What attribute(s) of God did you see in this passage that particularly struck you? Why do you think?
2. Why did the Israelites need a tabernacle? What had they been using in the meantime (see 33:7-11)?
3. When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple tore from top to bottom (see Mk 15:38; Heb 10:19-22). Why was this good news to his followers? What do you see in the fact that God still separates himself from humanity, in that "a veil covers their hearts" (see 2 Corin 3:14-15)? What does this say about the kind of relationship God wants with humanity, that only he can establish?
4. How do you think it affected those Israelite craftspeople to be asked to use their skills for God's purposes? What unusual skills might you have used to glorify God? How do you feel when you use your skills to glorify God?
5. What does the passage state is the purpose of observing Sabbath (31:12-18)? Taking a day to rest from work would require faith and trust that God would give the people seven days worth of production in six days time. When the surrounding enemies were working on the Sabbath, Israel would be resting. What virtues would an observance of the Sabbath help the Jews to develop? What virtues would an observance of the Sabbath help you and those you influence to develop?
6. With regard to the spiritual concept of Sabbath at Hebrews 4:9-10, from what kinds of works does the person of faith rest? How is trying to rest through works different from working as one who has already entered the rest of God through faith?
7. How do you "come into God's presence" when you cannot be at church or some other designated place of worship? Do you use any helps and if so what are they?
8. What in your small group life together have been highlights in your learning of Exodus. What truths do you want to capture and continue to apply in your life -- any particular verses or passages? What would be a fitting way to celebrate life together and your common experience of God through Exodus?

How can your group pray for each other? Spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. Listen... and pray as he leads you.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).