

Flourish: Week 4

November 10, 2024

Message Summary

In this week's message, we looked at how God used the generosity of the Israelites in Exodus 35–36 to build the Tabernacle. Having been freed from slavery, the Israelites responded by willingly giving what they had, from gold and silver to everyday items, as an offering to God. Their sacrificial giving reminds us of the joy and purpose we can find in contributing to God's work, knowing that He invites us to be part of something eternal. Like the Israelites, we are called to flourish through generosity, allowing our gifts to bless others and further God's kingdom.

Icebreaker Ideas**1. Favorite Ice Cream Flavor**

Ask each person to share their all-time favorite ice cream flavor and why they love it. It's a simple question that often leads to fun (and maybe even passionate!) opinions on the best flavors.

2. First Concert or Favorite Concert

Have everyone share the first concert they ever attended or their favorite concert experience. This is a great way to learn about each other's music tastes and often brings up fun memories!

Key Scripture(s)**Exodus 35:4-9**

Then Moses said to the whole community of Israel, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 5 Take a sacred offering for the Lord. Let those with generous hearts present the following gifts to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze; 6 blue, purple, and scarlet thread; fine linen and goat hair for cloth; 7 tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather; acacia wood; 8 olive oil for the lamps; spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; 9 onyx stones, and other gemstones to be set in the ephod and the priest's chestpiece.

Exodus 35: 20-22:

So the whole community of Israel left Moses and returned to their tents. 21 All whose hearts were stirred and whose spirits were moved came and brought their sacred offerings to the Lord. They brought all the materials needed for the Tabernacle, for the performance of its rituals, and for the sacred garments. 22 Both men and women came, all whose hearts were willing. They brought to the Lord their offerings of gold—brooches, earrings, rings from their fingers, and necklaces. They presented gold objects of every kind as a special offering to the Lord.

Exodus 35:24

And all who had silver and bronze objects gave them as a sacred offering to the Lord. And those who had acacia wood brought it for use in the project. 25 All the women who were skilled in sewing and spinning prepared blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen cloth.

Exodus 36:5

They went to Moses and reported, “The people have given more than enough materials to complete the job the Lord has commanded us to do!” 6 So Moses gave the command, and this message was sent throughout the camp: “Men and women, don’t prepare any more gifts for the sanctuary. We have enough!” So the people stopped bringing their sacred offerings. 7 Their contributions were more than enough to complete the whole project.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give... For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

Talk About It

Discuss the 8 observations from the building of the tabernacle.

- 1. They gave in response to the command of God**
- 2. God used their stuff to build his tabernacle**
- 3. They gave in response to being set free.**
- 4. They gave in anticipation of the future.**
- 5. Giving was both free and Spirit prompted**

- 6. Everyone had something to contribute**
- 7. You can't give what you don't have.**
- 8. They had to hold a meeting to tell them to stop giving**

Ways to Pray:

1. Thank God for His generosity toward us and for the blessings He has entrusted to us.
2. Ask for Guidance on how we can use our resources, time, and talents to honor God and help others flourish.
3. Pray for a Willing and Cheerful Heart that gives freely and joyfully, trusting that God will use our contributions for His purposes.