
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 9

Small Group Questions: Building a Tabernacle from Scratch

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Read

Exodus 24: 12–18, ad 25:2–9, 28:2; 31:1–6 and 35:5-22 and 36:3–7; Hebrews 7:27 and 10:17–18; Psalm 103:12; Proverbs 11:24 –25 and Romans 5:9

Reflect

In the Old Testament, the Lord tells Moses to come up to Mount Sinai, so he can receive the stone tablets with the law for the Israelites. For six days, clouds cover the mountain, but on the seventh day, the Lord calls to Moses. So Moses enters the cloud and stays on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights. God lays out a plan—an impressive building project. The tabernacle is to be a sanctuary where God will dwell among his people. It is to be a place of learning and forgiveness. It is a monumental task. When have you felt overwhelmed (in a fog) after being assigned something far beyond your ability and knowledge?

Pastor Greg describes how to build a tabernacle from scratch:

1. The tabernacle was a place where God met with his people.
 - a. In the tabernacle, God required very specific sacrifices. What did these sacrifices represent? Why were they necessary in the Old Testament?
 - b. Why is it unnecessary for us to make those same sacrifices? When and why did things change?
2. The construction of the tabernacle was bigger than one man's ability to accomplish.
 - a. Two leadership principles
 - Anything significant that you do for God is almost never accomplished alone.
 - i. How have you seen God bring together different people's skills to accomplish what seemed too hard or impossible?
 - ii. Do you enjoy being a part of a team? What roles have you played in the past?
 - God has planted the gifts you need to succeed in the people he places around you.
 - iii. Give an example of "where God guides, he provides."
 - iv. Would you say you tend to evaluate people based more on their resumes, or on seeing their potential—who they could become—through the power of the Holy Spirit?
 1. How does the culture you live in, support or run counter to that?
 - b. What has seemed like a burden to you, but ended up being a blessing to someone else?
3. The tabernacle was completed by the generosity of willing people.
 - a. God tells Moses to ask the people for an offering to build the tabernacle. Since God can make anything happen on his own, why does he ask this?
 - b. When have you seen giving become contagious?
 - c. Have you ever waited to become part of something and then missed out? Explain.
 - d. Do you think of the church as a place where God meets with you?
 - e. What is God calling you to do that is bigger than you can accomplish?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?