



Integrating faith & everyday life

Discovering ways to bring life and faith together, to help you see God in everything you do

### REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

#### How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

#### Where and how did you experience God last week?

### WHOLE LYFE VOCATION

As a carpenter, Jesus served God when he served other people, making tables and chairs and cradles. Whatever our work, paid or unpaid, in an office or at home, CEO or parent – we can similarly serve God by whatever we do.

### READ

#### Exodus 31.1-11

## The Lord Chooses Bezalel and Oholiab

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Moses:

<sup>2</sup> I have chosen Bezalel

from the Judah tribe to make the sacred tent and its furnishings. <sup>3-5</sup>

Not only have I filled him with my Spirit, but I have given him wisdom and made him a skilled craftsman who can create objects of art with gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood. <sup>6</sup> I have appointed Oholiab

from the tribe of Dan to work with him, and I have also given skills to those who will help them make everything exactly as I have commanded you: <sup>7-11</sup> the sacred tent with its furnishings, the sacred chest with its place of mercy, the

table with all that is on it, the lamp with its equipment, the incense altar, the altar for sacrifices with its equipment, the bronze bowl with its stand, the beautiful priestly clothes for Aaron and his sons, the oil for dedication and ordination services, and the sweet-smelling incense for the holy place.

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

### REFLECT

Setting the scene:

- ▶ God has brought the nation out of Egypt and they are camping out in the wilderness of the Sinai. Then God orders intense, skilled, human activity to construct a Tabernacle (portable tent).
- ▶ In Bezalel, God chose a skilled craftsman. He is also the first person in the Bible to be

described as 'filled with the Spirit' - a description not used of a priest or a prophet, but of a craftsman, a 'blue-collar' worker.

- ▶ If Bezalel is the general contractor, we then see the appointment of the chief foreman, an assistant called Oholiab who was an engraver and designer. We begin to see the Spirit of God working through the skills of craftsmen, skilled workers and sub-contractors as many people

become involved in this construction project.

- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ In what ways are you a creative person?
- ▶ Do you have a sense of God being involved in your 'work'? In what ways do you include God in your work?

### I RESPOND

Vocation challenge: As a group, create a challenge that will help you to live with a good attitude towards money and possessions.

#### Challenge ideas:

If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

#### 01 Reflection

Take some time this week to make a list of all the activities you are involved in such as work, employment, parenting, hobbies, sports, clubs, housework, church. Now specifically score on a scale of 1–10 (1 being least effective) – how well you bring the presence of God into each activity. Are some activities easier to invite God into than others? Is there a sense of divide over what might be more important to God in your mind? Don't be harsh on yourself – this is simply an exercise in evaluating how we include or exclude God in our activity. This week, be more aware of God with you in all the activity of your life – try to invite his Spirit into everything you do, it's all important to him!

#### 02 Audience of One

Aim to do your work in honour of God. Whatever kind of work that is. Choose a day to focus on work in a way that brings God respect. Consider your attitude towards travelling, answering the phone, conversations with colleagues, conducting a staff meeting, how you treat customers, invoice bills, chat at the school gates, creativity and construction – do it all as if God was visibly present with you in all that you do and accomplish.

#### 03 Service/Prayer

If your church doesn't regularly pray for parents, teachers, nurses and other types of employment, consider encouraging them to do so at appropriate times – e.g. pray for the teachers at the start of a new term. We spend a lot of time at work, often surrounded by people of different faiths or no faith – this is the frontline of mission. You could arrange a service whereby everyone turns up in their normal work clothing or uniform, speak about God's desire to help us work well and pray for each other.

#### GROUP PRAYER:

You might like to commit to praying for each person in the group this week as you each look to do your work as if Jesus was doing our work.

*'We work to the "audience of one". We are becoming co-labourers with God as we bring good into the world.'*

*Richard J Foster Streams of Living Water*

#### Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

#### More resources on 'Whole Lyfe'

- Listen to video interview with Mark Greene and Dallas Willard
- Read articles on Work & Family and Interview with Joe Davis
- Read 'lyfe story' biographies on GK Chesterton and Brother Lawrence
- Recommended Reading 'Working It Out – God, you and the work you do' by Mark Greene & Ian Coffey