

# EXODUS

COVENANT PRESENCE & PURPOSE

August 13, 2023 | Dana Williams

**WARM UP QUESTIONS:** What causes you the most stress or pressure in your daily life? How do you find help?

**READ:** Exodus 35:1-2, 29; 36:2; 39:32; 40:33-34, 38

**FOCUS:** We are freed, empowered and working with God.

**OBSERVE:**

- Exodus is the story of God moving the Israelites from enslaved living to empowered living in His Presence. God mediated Israel's movement from enslavement to empowerment through Moses as their leader.
- Living as slaves under oppression, Israel had work. It was challenging and straining. Living empowered with God, Israel had work. This time it was in partnership with God. Israel completed the tasks assigned by God, constructing the Tabernacle and crafting the priestly garments according to His instructions.
- The Israelites were held in slavery by Pharaoh, and while external oppressors may exist in our own lives, our most significant oppressor often lies within ourselves. When Adam & Eve went their own way in the garden, sin became mankind's primary oppressor. Sin causes us to make our own idols and do things our own way. Sin turns us away from God our creator and from walking in God's ways.
- After our deliverance from slavery and when we have entered into relationship with God, He bestows empowerment upon us and summons us to engage in His purpose and mission. We contribute to the readiness for Christ's eventual return, just as the Israelites played a role in preparing for God's presence among them within the Tabernacle.

**TAKING ACTION:**

- Examine how you navigate your everyday life and work. Identify instances where you perceive God's presence during these moments. How might you further integrate God into the various aspects of your life?
- Review your upcoming schedule and assess whether you can include a Discipleship class this fall. This will aid in your growth in mirroring Christ, strengthening your faith, and fostering connections within your community.

**REFLECT:**

- How has knowing of God's desire to be present with believers in every aspect of their lives transformed your perspective regarding significant life matters as well as the seemingly small ones?

**PRAY:**

*Lord, we are grateful that You wanted to dwell with us and that You were the One who made a way for it to happen. We commit to finding joy in every facet of life – the moments of celebration, the challenges, and even the times of sorrow – confident that Your presence accompanies us through them all. Jesus, guide us in extending love to those in our midst, and empower us to introduce them to You so they can also enjoy Your presence, in Jesus' name we pray, amen!*