

April 25, 2010

What Are My Special Talents?

Exodus 31:1-7

Goals for today:

1. To realize our talents and abilities are given to us by God.
2. To understand that God can use our talents for His glory
3. To learn the importance of using the talents God has given us

If our group were shipwrecked on a deserted island, which job would you choose, and which would you avoid?

- Design and build a boat
- Hunt for food
- Cook the food
- Plan the day's agenda
- Entertain the group so that they won't be bored or scared
- Write a letter to put in a bottle to be thrown out to sea
- Decorate the inside of the hut that will be built
- Scout out the island, report back what you find
- Organize the supplies and keep track of how long it will last.

Today's story is about the calling of the craftsmen to build the tabernacle and all its accompanying furnishings. Read text **Exodus 31:1-7**

God gave Bezalel many talents in craftsmanship. Then God asked Bezalel to use those to build His tabernacle. Why did God not choose Moses to build the tabernacle?

1. 1Cor 10:31. For what can God use your talents and abilities? Think of your daily activities, How can you use them *for the glory of God*?
2. If God used Bezalel, what are ways we excuse ourselves from using OUR talents for God?
 - a. we deny that we have talents
 - b. we think 'small'
 - c. we say we're too busy
 - d. we think OUR talents can't be used by God
 - e. we think no one will take us seriously
 - f. we need help to get started
 - g. we have never thought about using our talents for God before now.

In what areas are your greatest talents?

1. working with your hands
2. working with numbers
3. problem solving
4. organizing and planning
5. teaching
6. working with people
7. athletic ability
8. writing or art or music
9. public speaking
10. other? _____

List your top three talents, natural abilities, or job skills. Name 3 ministries in WCC that could benefit from them.

How can your specific talents or abilities be used by God to advance His Kingdom?

John 15:5 What does this tell us about the manner in which God will use your talents?

Matt 25:14-29. This parable illustrates what in relation to using your talent for God? What will happen if we do not use our talent for God's Kingdom?

Have you ever volunteered for a task and later quit because it did not fit you?

God chose Bezalel to lead and Oholiab to help. When has God called you to help someone else?

Here are three steps for using your abilities for the purpose of ministry.

1. Make a realistic assessment of your talents, by listing your strengths and weaknesses
2. Develop your abilities by making a plan to learn and grow.
3. Use your abilities in ministry.

When will you begin? If not now, when?