stories from Exodus

March 2-

Reflect on Exodus 25 and pray the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for demonstrating Your love for me in Your death, burial and resurrection. Now You have entered into the true heavenly sanctuary, but You desire that Your presence dwell among us so that You can have fellowship with us. The Bible says that "[our] bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you" (1 Corinthians 6:19). Help me to glorify You, Father, in my body and in my spirit, which belong to You. Lord, You have written Your laws in my heart. I am salt and light in the world. I am the righteousness of God in Christ. Grant me grace to daily live out these truths. Help me to spend time in Your presence so I can develop a more intimate relationship with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

March 3-

Read Exodus 27, Exodus 28

Have you ever wished you were better at something? Have you been confused about why you were made the way you are or why you have the talents you have? Understanding our uniqueness is a vital part of learning to worship God well.

Worship isn't just singing songs and raising our hands every Sunday. Worship is how we live our lives. When we use the gifts and talents God has given us for His glory, that's worship as well.

In Exodus 28:3, God says, "Tell all the skilled workers to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest." God gave these tailors a natural gift for sewing, and allowed them to grow up in the right place, at the right time, to be in a position to make the first priestly garments.

Like the skilled workers in Exodus, we all have unique abilities. It's no accident that we're good at certain things, that we live where we live, and that we have the opportunities we have.

God made us on purpose, for a purpose, and with a purpose. Our given skills and abilities were intentional, and one way we worship God is by using our skills and abilities for His glory.

4 •	_	
CTATIAC	trom	Exodus
2101162	$\mathbf{H} \mathbf{O} \mathbf{H}$	LXUUUS

D	ef	FL	^	+٠
п	E	ιt	tu	ι.

What's one thing you're good at or that others say you do well?

How can you use what God has given you to serve Him and others better?

March 4-

Reflect on Exodus 27-28 and pray through these prayer points:

- 1. Thank God that He is your High Priest and that you can bear your heart directly to Him.
- 2. Thank God for making you a part of His royal priesthood and ask Him to help you carry out your duties by lifting up those around you.
- 3. Ask God for wisdom in the decisions you need to make this week.

March 5-

Read Exodus 29, Exodus 30

Something as simple as special plates can completely change the atmosphere of a meal. For example, you know it's a special occasion when Grandma's china is on the table. The intricate designs and elegant style set it apart from ordinary dishes.

In Exodus 29 and Exodus 30, God explains how He wants the Israelites to be set apart and special. He gives specific instructions on everything from what the priests should wear and how they offer sacrifices, to how to make anointing oil and incense for worship. God wanted the Israelites to understand that in order to come into His presence, there were expectations of purity and reverence.

Though Christians today don't need to follow these rules (Hebrews 10:1-10), we are still called to live in a way that is set apart and different. When we consider how merciful God has been to us, we respond by offering our lives as a "living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God" (Romans 12:1). We do this by showing compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, by loving people like Jesus loved people (John 13:35 and Colossians 3:12).

stories from Exodus

Few people remember everyday meals, but the meals shared on Grandma's china tend to stand out from the rest. In the same way, our lives leave a memorable impression on those around us when we love like Jesus.

Reflect

Do you live differently because of your relationship with Jesus? Why or why not?

What is one area of your life you can change to set you apart from your coworkers, classmates or friends?

If living like Jesus sounds new to you, learn about what it means to follow Jesus.

March 6-

Reflect on Exodus 29-30 and pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I praise Your lovely Name. "Your name is like perfume poured out" (Song of Solomon 1:3). The Tabernacle of Moses, with its furnishings and accessories all point to Jesus. The fragrant incense speaks of Your Intercession before the Father on my behalf. You made the sacrifice for my redemption. Your blood cleanses me from sin. You are my anointing and You baptize me in the Holy Spirit. O Lord, may I walk in the knowledge that You are my all in all. Everything I need is in You. You are my supplier and you satisfy my soul. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

March 7-

Read Exodus 31

You were designed to make a difference. God's plans for His church are as simple as they are complex, and each of us play a part in how it all comes together.

In Exodus 31, God gave abilities to His people in order to achieve various tasks. Some were skilled in stone cutting, others in carpentry, others in sewing, others in blending fragrant oils for incense. In the same way, we all have a part in how the church functions. 1 Corinthians 12:11 says, "God distributes His gifts to each believer, just as He determines."

stories from Exodus

Some teach children, while others encourage students. Some set the environment for a church service; others preach and lead us in song. Some of us heal with medicine, while others heal through prayer. Every spiritual gift is an act of service, an act of love. We are all building blocks that, when put together, accomplish God's purpose of making Jesus known.

So how do we know what our gifts are? How do we know where we fit in? The answer is found in one word—obedience. Be open to God's direction. Saying "yes" to Him opens opportunities to serve. Instead of trying to figure out how God wants to use you, the best way to discover your role in the church is to simply begin serving others.

Reflect:

What's one area of your life where you struggle with saying "yes" to God?

What are your spiritual gifts? Not sure? Consider this: What brings you joy? What comes easily to you?

March 8-

Reflect on Exodus 31 and pray this prayer:

Our Father, we appreciate the valuable lessons You have given to us in the Book of Exodus, such as those about people like Bezalel and Oholiab who were filled with your Spirit for "practical service." The work of ministry is not just for church leaders and we can all minister for You in some way. We are grateful that you have equipped each of us with unique talents and special skills. Please help us to use our talents and skills for You everyday and make a difference in Your kingdom. Amen