



## THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

*Unit Theme: What is God asking of us in this moment?*

*Lesson connected to Sunday, October 13, 2019*

*Today's Scripture: Exodus 35:20-29*

**Key Verse:** "All the Israelite men and women whose hearts made them willing to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done, brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord." Exodus 35:29

*Contexts of the Scripture:*

- Look up Exodus in the Table of Contents of your bible. Where is it found?
- Exodus is the second book of the Torah, or Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures. These five books form the foundation of the Hebrew faith up through the time of the escape from Egypt and its aftermath.
- Biblical scholars consider Exodus to be "the centerpiece of the Torah. ... It tells the story of how YHWH, the God of Israel freed a group of slaves in Egypt and brought them to YHWH's chosen mountain in the desert to give them laws by which they should live. It is the foundational story of the people of Israel, celebrated to this day by Jews on Passover." (*The People's Bible*, p. 185)
- Today's text comes from the third section of Exodus which focuses on "the revelation of laws to guide the life of the people in their new social situation – to assure that they act justly toward and maintain the holiness of YHWH." (*Ibid.*)

*Questions to go deeper:*

- Read the earlier verses to put this particular in its own context. What exactly has happened just before this morning's text describes the response of the people to Moses' requests? What has he asked them to do? Why?
- Take out a piece of paper and make a list of what the people brought "to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service..." Does anything on the list surprise you? Why?
- Why do you think it is emphasized throughout the text that the people were doing all this with "willing hearts?" What exactly does that mean? What is the connection between "willing hearts" and it being a "freewill offering?"
- What examples can you think of in your involvement with our church or the community when you needed a willing heart? What was the result?

*Activity possibilities:*

- **Family activities:**
  - Add "willing hearts" to your bible timeline. See notes above to figure out where it would go. Hint: It would come after the Israelites leave Egypt but before they settle in the Promised Land.

- What events are coming up at church that will require “willing hearts?” Check the *Weekly Email Updates*, the *Sunday News & Notes*, and the *Beacon* for ideas. How are you willing to contribute as a family?
- Consider participating in the Sacred Threads group at church. This is the group, meeting for the first time on October 12, who will be working together to create some new fabric art for our sanctuary including paraments (the strips of cloth on the altar) and banners. This is our modern day equivalent to the work Moses is inviting his people to engage in thousands of years ago!

- **Younger children activities:**

- Here is a coloring page with one person’s idea of what the tent of meeting might have looked like. Look carefully at the description in the biblical text and then color it in following those guidelines.



- If you wanted to design some piece of fabric art for our sanctuary at church, what would it be? A banner? An altar cloth? A stole for Rev. Ruth? What would it look like? Make some sketches and color them!

- **Older children and youth activities:**

- Check out this link to see what the “tent of meeting” might have looked like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mFGsLEpKKk>
- After watching the video, re-read through the text, continuing on to the end of the book of Exodus. Consider gathering materials to make your own version of the tent of meeting. Involve the whole family!
- See the suggested activity above for younger children and give it a try too!

### *Going Deeper:*

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.