



**session one**

**God calls and equips us  
to do our work**



## session one

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### looking ahead

Take a few moments to introduce yourselves, share your expectations from this study and review the group guidelines on page 10.

### candid conversations

As you watch the video clips you might want to consider the following questions:

1. How did God equip the interviewees to do their jobs, both before and after they started?

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2. How did they recognize their jobs as a calling? By a word from the Lord or by interpreting their circumstances in retrospect?

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SESSION ONE: GOD CALLS AND EQUIPS US TO DO OUR WORK

3. What was their response to being called by God?

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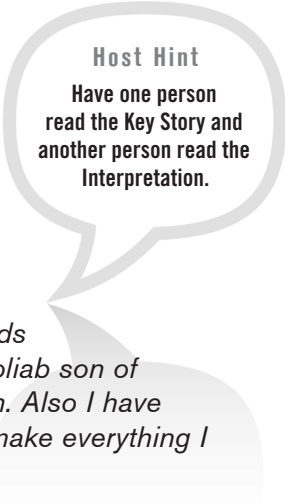
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**Key Story** The Lord Calls and Equips Bezalel and Oholiab to Build the Tabernacle

*Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you . . .*



Exodus 31:1–6 (NIV)

*Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work.*

Exodus 36:2 (NIV)

## CHRISTIANS IN THE WORKPLACE

### interpretation

In Exodus 31, God told Moses that he had chosen two craftsmen, Bezalel (Bez), and Oholiab (Oli), to lead all the other Israelite workers in building the tabernacle. Bez and Oli were already work-crew leaders from two different tribes (Judah and Dan). The other workers were also from every tribe and specialized in a wide range of different crafts.

Moses told the people God's plan for the temple, publicly appointed Bez and Oli as their leaders, and assured the people of God's selection by informing them of how God had equipped them. Then, Moses launched the project, instructing each worker to use all their God-given abilities to build the tabernacle.

What does this story teach us about our work? It's helpful to highlight a few details in this passage:

First, God chose and equipped Bez and Oli to do the kind of work they were already doing. He didn't move them from one vocation to another. His original plans and purpose for their lives did not change.

Second, the passage doesn't tell us exactly when or how God's Spirit filled these two leaders with the necessary abilities. While we may picture that it was an instantaneous infilling in a moment in time, it may have been a more gradual process. After all, from their childhood they had been trained to do their work and they had done their work so well that they became the leaders of their respective work crews. Likely, God trained them through their long, faithful work and the challenges they experienced, just as he uses these moments in all our lives to prepare us. If this is the case, we need to ask ourselves how God is preparing us through our daily experiences.

Finally, the people were instructed to work using all the skills, wisdom, and understanding God had given them. God cared about every task the people were doing. God was involved in every aspect of the building project. Everything we do at work matters to God.

SESSION ONE: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



**discussion questions**

1. In what ways do you consider your work to be a calling? If you haven't thought of this before, take a few moments to reflect on your past experiences. In what ways can you *now* see your work as a calling?

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2. How has God equipped you to do your work? In what ways might your current work be equipping you for your future work?

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3. How could you improve your use of the skills and abilities that God has given you to perform your work?

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## CHRISTIANS IN THE WORKPLACE

4. Considering your answers to the previous questions, what is one change you could make at work this week?

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### living it out

**How could you use your God-given gifts or talents to improve the way you do one of your job duties this week? To help focus your attention, we suggest you use the chart below to summarize your thoughts about a new action you can take this week.**

What gift will I use this week to make one change?	How can this improve my work?	What impact will this change have on others?	How will this change glorify God?	How can this change also benefit me in the long run (i.e., my job, health, relationship, etc.)?

## SESSION ONE: PRAISE AND PRAYER

Considering your responses to the chart, what is one change you could make at work this week? At the start of your next group session, you'll have an opportunity to share how that choice has or hasn't been working for you and to discuss how you feel about it.

Partner up with another group member to share your plan and encourage one another during the week. Pray for each other as you develop and apply the talents, skills, and abilities God has given you.

### praise and prayer

Pray together to ask God to help you see new ways of using your gifts, talents, and abilities, believing that whether or not you see it yet, God has called and equipped you to do your work.

Share praise reports and prayer requests.

Visit [www.saddleback.com/saddlebackatwork](http://www.saddleback.com/saddlebackatwork), and [www.facebook.com/saddlebackatwork](https://www.facebook.com/saddlebackatwork) for additional resources.

To learn more about your S.H.A.P.E. (Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences), we recommend the book and six-week small group study entitled *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique PURPOSE for LIFE*, by Pastor Erik Rees. Visit [www.saddlebackresources.com](http://www.saddlebackresources.com) for more information.

