

Lesson 13: WORK OF THE HANDS
Exodus 35: 20-35

INTRODUCTION:

What was the big job that Moses was called by the Lord to perform?
(To lead the Children of Israel out of the bondage in Egypt.)

But also, Moses was chosen to listen to the Lord's instructions, and to tell them to the Children of Israel.

This was a time when knowledge about the one true God had almost disappeared. If that knowledge had vanished, then people on earth would have been completely cut off from heaven and would have perished, because life had to come to earth from God through the heavens.

People's hearts had turned away from heaven during the time of Moses, and their minds had lost all understanding of the truth about God and heaven. Moses listened to the Lord, and told the people about God. But the hearts of the Children of Israel at that time were so prone to go astray and turn to evil that the only way to keep them connected with the Lord was by giving strict laws for them to follow. It was obedience to all of the Lord's instructions that could keep the Children of Israel safe from spiritual destruction, until the time would come that the Lord would be born on earth, and could begin to clear up all the misunderstandings about God and heaven.

Another way that the Lord could keep the Children of Israel connected with heaven was by correspondences. Since their hearts and minds were too mixed up to stay connected with heaven, the Lord gave very careful instructions as to how to build the Tabernacle, which would be the place of worship. Everything in this Tabernacle had to represent something about heaven, so that in that representation there would be a connection between heaven and earth.

So the Lord gave instructions to Moses, about how to build the Tabernacle, and the beautiful things that would go in it. And Moses told these instructions to the people.

Moses said, "Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let Him bring it as an offering to the LORD."

READING:

Now we will read what the people did in response to this command.

Have the children read aloud Exodus 35: 20-35 (16 verses)

DISCUSSION:

As you can see, the Children of Israel were moved and inspired by Moses' words. They must have been able to feel the holiness of the command to bring offerings, and so they did — in fact, the people brought more than enough! What were some of the offerings that they brought? *(Gold jewelry; fine linen; yarn made of goat's hair; ram skins; badger skins; silver; bronze; acacia wood; onyx stones and other precious stones; spices and oils.)*

And then the Lord chose someone else for an important job. Did you notice his name, and what he was chosen for? *(Bezaleel was chosen to do fine, artistic workmanship — designing, cutting and setting jewels, wood carving, tapestry making, weaving and more.)*

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What did the Lord fill Bezaleel with?

(The Spirit of God — wisdom, understanding, and knowledge to do this work. The Lord also filled him with the ability to teach others these skills, including Aholiab and other assistants.)

Is there anything that you like to make? It could be something you make with your hands, or something you make more with your mind, like a song or a story or a plan. What are the steps that happen in order for you to make something?

First you need to *want* to. To be really good at making something, you have to start with a desire in your heart.

Then you need to *know* and *understand* certain things that will make you able to bring this desire into reality, and make a plan.

And finally, you need to take that wanting and that understanding and go ahead and do the work that will make it happen. The more you want, and the more you learn and understand, and the more you do, the better will be the thing that you make.

In the Word, a fine craftsman like Bezaleel represents the power of these three things put together. When a person takes a good desire and intelligent learning from the Lord and starts to make something with them, then that person is really making those gifts from the Lord his own, or her own. And when we do that, beautiful things will result, like the beautiful things in the Tabernacle. Bezaleel made the golden Ark, and he and his -assistants made the beautiful tapestries and curtains and artifacts of gold, silver and bronze.

Let's take weaving, for instance. A weaver is someone who desires to take threads and put them together into something beautiful, and something perhaps that a person can wear.

When a person takes good ideas and makes something out of them, that person is like a weaver. The good ideas are like threads, and the desire to make something is what gets the person to learn enough to weave those ideas together into something great — maybe a piece of clothing, a painting, a piece of furniture, a story, a speech, a song, a game...whatever! Think of something you have made. What were the threads that you wove together to make it?

PROJECT: Paper Weaving

See instructions on next page.

Crazy Weavings Instructions

Have fun making your own dizzy designs out of paper

By Connie Ramey (from SPARK! Magazine)

Supplies:

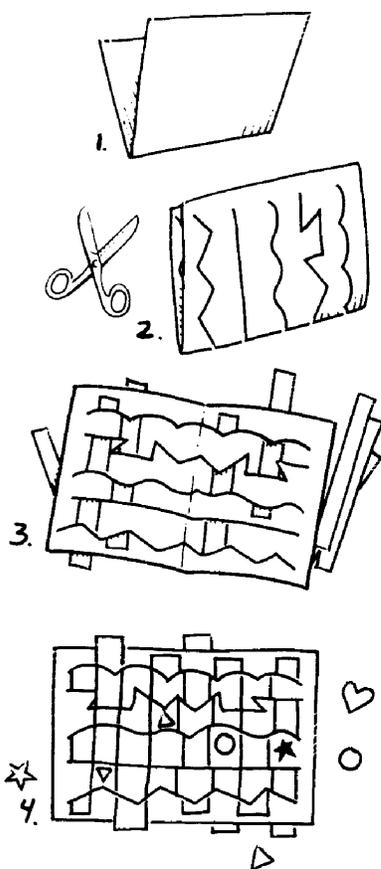
One flat piece of colored paper

Strips of colored paper, all about the same size and long enough to reach across the flat piece of paper

Scissors

Glue

Procedure:



1. Fold the flat piece of paper in half.
2. Starting at the fold, cut wiggly or zigag lines to about 1 inch from the edges of the paper. You'll probably make about six cuts
3. Open the paper. Weave each strip of paper over and under. Alternate colors of strips. Using two or more colors of strips and alternating them makes a colorful pattern.
4. Keep weaving until the colored paper is full of strips.
5. Move the strips close together. Add more if necessary.
6. If you want, cut out small designs, such as hearts, circles or squares. Glue them onto the strips.
7. For a finished look, glue your weavings onto a larger piece of colored paper. You can even frame it.

Other Suggestions:

- Make different cuts. Try short, choppy cuts or rounded cuts.
- Make the weaving strips longer than the paper. Then curl or snip them.
- Weave colored ribbon or yarn over the strips.
- Use many different colors of strips.
- Use wrapping paper, foil, wallpaper or felt instead of paper