

**May 11/25 "Spirit of Wisdom & Strength" – Ex 35:30 – 36:7**  
**(Leader's Guide)**

1. Have you ever had the experience of doing something that ended up having a greater effect (for good) than you expected? Tell about it. If you don't have a personal example, can you think of a way that God has used someone's gifts to bless you?

*If possible, have an example to share with the group to get them started.*

2. What were some of the categories of people God filled with his Spirit in the Old Testament? Why do you think he chose those people?

*God filled judges (leaders) like Samson and Gideon with strength and leadership skills. He filled the kings of Israel like Saul and David with wisdom for leading the people. He filled prophets (we didn't discuss this in this sermon – it will be next week) to declare his word. And he filled artists for the building of the tabernacle.*

3. What do you think the connection is between the Israelites having attempted to worship a golden calf and now being open to the building of the tabernacle? Is there a connection? What can we take from that in our own lives?

*The pain that the Israelites experienced from turning to idols may have made them more open to God's work in their lives. Is that something that we can relate to?*

4. How does the openness on the part of the community matter when it comes to works of the Spirit?

*It is openness that allows for the resources needed, as well as for the effectiveness of the individual's gifts in question.*

5. Why could Jesus do no miracles in his hometown?

*The townspeople were 'offended by him' – they were closed off to what God was doing in their midst, and as a result he didn't do miracles there.*

6. How does the idea feel, of having God use your gifts in such a way that the kingdom is grown but you are forgotten? Have you experienced this?

*Allow space for this to not necessarily be an easy thought for people! We like to receive recognition for our work. Maybe play with those ideas as a group.*