



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

March 29, 2026 (Salem)

## SUMMARY

This sermon explores the biblical calling for believers to use their God-given gifts and talents for His glory, not merely to attend church as spectators. Drawing from Exodus 31, the message emphasizes that God saved us by grace not just from something (sin and slavery) but to something (purposeful service). Just as God called Bezalel and Oholiab to use their artistic excellence empowered by the Holy Spirit to build the tabernacle, God calls each believer to use their professional gifts, creativity, and abilities for His kingdom. The sermon challenges the notion that salvation is merely for personal benefit, instead presenting it as an invitation to participate in God's creative work. God is presented as the ultimate artist who created beauty in nature and now dwells within believers through the Holy Spirit, empowering them to create excellently for His glory. The message calls listeners to move beyond fear and inadequacy, trusting that God equips those He calls, and to actively engage in serving the local church and community as an act of worship and evangelism.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does understanding that God saved you from something and to something change the way you view your daily work and calling?
2. In what ways might the evangelical church's historical lack of emphasis on excellence have hindered its witness, and how can we pursue excellence without falling into perfectionism or elitism?
3. The sermon mentions that Bezalel and Oholiab were already experts before God filled them with His Spirit. How does this challenge or affirm your understanding of how God uses natural talents versus spiritual gifts?
4. What does it reveal about God's character that He invited people to create the tabernacle rather than simply creating it Himself supernaturally?
5. How might viewing yourself as God's masterpiece created for good works change the way you approach mundane or difficult tasks in your professional life?
6. The pastor shares his own fear and inadequacy in ministry. How does vulnerability about our

weaknesses actually demonstrate dependence on the Holy Spirit's empowerment?

7. What artistic or creative expressions in your life might God be calling you to use for His glory that you have previously considered secular or unspiritual?
8. How does the connection between God's beautiful creation in nature and His desire for beauty in the tabernacle challenge our understanding of what worship spaces and Christian culture should look like?
9. If you truly believed that the same Spirit who created the Swiss Alps and the beauty of nature dwells in you, how would that change your confidence in stepping into what God is calling you to do?
10. The sermon emphasizes that meaningful spiritual growth requires engagement in the life of the church. What fears or obstacles are preventing you from saying yes to using your gifts in service?