

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"WHITE COLLAR, BLUE COLLAR" | EXODUS 28-29, 31 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is a cool talent that would be fun to have?

"White Collar" - (Exodus 28-29)

The priests were to continually burn offerings mornings and evening as a reminder of their complete constant and complete devotion of God. What are practices people today can use to remind themselves of their relationship with God?

The priests wore clothing that showed they represented the people before God so their sacrifices might be accepted, and later Jesus is described as the true High Priest that represents us before God so that we may be forgiven. What are advantages of having Jesus represent us before God?

"Blue Collar" - (Exodus 31)

Bezalel and Oholiab were gifted artisans who needed God's calling before they could do work that would please Him. How does someone know when they are pleasing God with their gifts instead of pleasing themselves?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

There were many ways to serve God in the tabernacle with all kinds of gifts and talents God had given people. But natural ability wasn't enough, the people needed the Holy Spirit to work through them to truly please Him. Have you been seeking God's call and filling of the Spirit for your responsibilities? How do you think it would feel to have the Holy Spirit guiding more of what you do each day?

White Collar - Blue Collar

(priests & design team)

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Lar: Missions Prayer. [Baptism](#). Neighbors. Men's Brkfst. A21.
- B. Slide7 Israel: We have an upcoming Israel trip in March 2022. If you would like **more info** on joining us, we have an *info meeting* next Sun after 3rd service out in the courtyard [Room 111](#).
- C. Slide8 Harvest Crusade: Next Sun Eve Oct.3rd. harvest.org/socal
- D. Slide9 Opp to Serve: *Chad Robi* is looking for volunteers to support & assist stateside operations for the guests at Safe Harbor locations (Fort Atterbury, IN, Ft. Bliss, TX, Ft. Dix, NJ, Ft. Holloman, NM, Ft. Lee, NJ, Ft. Quantico, VA and Ft. Pickett, VA). [Sept.24th-Dec.26th](#).
 1. Work 9-hour shifts, 7 days per week, for a minimum of **1 week** at a time. Food and lodging will be provided.

II. Slide10 Intro: White Collar - Blue Collar

- A. Let's remember this whole section of Exodus is still on *worship*. God wants to be worshiped on His own terms, in His own way.
- B. *Last week* we talked about the **Tabernacle** & its **Furnishings**. *This week* we'll look at the **Priesthood** (clothes & ordination) and the **Design Team** for the Tabernacle.
- C. **Outline: White Collar** (*get it? Priests*). **Blue Collar** (*manual work*).

III. Slide11a **WHITE COLLAR (ch.28,29) READ 28:1-4**

- A. **THE PRIESTS GARMENTS ch.28** *Glory & Beauty* (bookends)
- B. Before we talk bout the priesthood, can I say a few words about *Glory & Beauty*.
 1. Slide11b Not making *any graven images* was not that God forbids **representational art**, but rather *the worship of it*. [my premise ...]
 - a) If God enjoys *Art, Beauty, & Creativity*. And His Word promotes *Art, Beauty, & Creativity*. Then man should celebrate appropriate *ABC*.

2. Slide12 **God is the Artist. His Word His Brush. The World, His Canvas!**

- a) Col.1:16 *For by **Him** all things were **created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, **visible** and **invisible**.*
- b) **All things visible** - the **red** of poinsettia plants. the **greens** of the Belizean rainforest. the **blue** eyes of a friend. the different clouds we've seen this week. the **armor** of the pill bug. the delicate & colorful **wings** of a butterfly.
- c) **All things invisible** - The things we know are there *but can't* see with our eyes. Wind & gravity. Atoms & electrons. Oxygen & sound waves.
- d) **Think about it** ... we could live in *a flat uninteresting world*, w/the bare minimum of gray ingredients. **But instead** we live in *an incredible explosion of diversity & beauty*.

C. The priesthood was both a **privilege and responsibility** (serious obligation).

1. They ministered first to the Lord (1,3,4,41, serve Me). They ministered to the people. They Ministered Together (they served the **same Lord** and obeyed the **same Word**).
2. There's no competition or confusion in the holy tabernacle. [was **hereditary**, no one could **force** or **buy** their way into it]

D. Slide13a Show/explain the High Priest garments.

E. (6-14) I just want you to notice on the ephod there are **2 Onyx stones** (red or blk banded/stripped), one on each shoulder (names of 12 tribes, 6 on each).

1. The priests represented all the children of Israel **by carrying their names on his shoulders** (12). The people's **hope** was in their priest, to represent them. [**priest** in Latin = **pontifex**, means **bridge-builder**].
2. **But** not only **on his shoulder** but **on his heart**. See vs.30

F. Slide13b (30) This is still on Yale University's **coat of arms** today.

1. It has a field of the color **Yale Blue** with an open book and the Hebrew words **Urim and Thummim** inscribed upon it in Hebrew letters.

2. Below the shield on a scroll appears Yale's official motto, *Lux et Veritas* (Lt. *Light and Truth*).
 3. (אֲוִרִים urim - תְּמִימִים tumim) [Ahleph & Tav - 1st & Last letter of Heb Alphabet]
 4. These are mentioned, yet not described. Later we see them used to *discern the will of God* (Numb.27:21; 1 Sam.28:6).
 5. They seem to be like dice/to cast lots. They seem to be the Torah's response to *magic and divination practices* common in the ancient world.
 - a) Now here it is perfectly clear only the leader could do so, on behalf of the whole nation. Which ended all individual *divination*. The Torah was *evolutionary not revolutionary* (developing, not using a new system).
- G. We have something better, we have The Great High Priest, **Jesus!** who helps us with our decisions. Who carries us on His shoulders & in His heart.

H. Slide14a **THE PRIESTS ORDINATION** ch.29 READ 29:1,19-20,

I. Slide14b *We dedicate, but God consecrates. We surrender, but He sanctifies and sets us apart for His exclusive use.* Warren Wiersbe

J. As Gods priesthood, **we** (His people) have experienced *spiritually* what Aaron and his sons experienced *physically*. Rev.1:5,6 nlt *All glory to him (Jesus) who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. 6 He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory & power to him forever & ever!*

1. Slide14c **We have been washed** - the blood of Christ has cleansed us, and our past is gone.
2. **We have been clothed** - we stand in the very *righteousness* of Christ and wear the garments of God's *grace*.
3. **We have been anointed** - we have the Holy Spirit living within, and He enables us to minister.
4. **We belong to God** - *the priest* were marked by the blood on *the ear* (to hear God), *the hand* (to serve God), and *the foot* (to walk w/God).

K. (38,39) The continual burn offering *morning and evening* was a reminder of their complete and constant *devotion* to God.

1. Don't forget your daily *presentation* of yourself to God (Rom.12:1 *present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship*).

L. Slide15 JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST

1. Instead of **stones** on His shoulders, He bore **His cross** on them. He carried our names, **not** on a **breast-piece**, **but** in **His heart**. He is a **better sacrifice**, it was **His own blood** **not** the blood of *animals*.
2. *When the father sees us today He sees us through the Representative.*
 - a) The Father **accepted** Jesus the high priest, **and** you are *just as accepted* as **Jesus**, **if** you are *in Him*.
 - b) We are saved **not by** the strength of our faith **but by** the **object** of our faith (**Jesus**).

IV. Slide16a **BLUE COLLAR** (ch.31) **Design Team.** *work* (1-11) - *rest* 12-17 - *law* (18)

A. **WORK** (1-11)

B. God **calls** workers, **equips** workers, and gives workers **the plan** for the task.

1. **Bezalel** in **Oholiab** were gifted artisans, **but** they needed God's **calling** and **enabling** before they could do the work *to please Him*. **Can you ask for the same?**

C. Slide16b (2) **Bezalel** - means, *in the shadow/protection of God*. This could be showing us that **artist** should see themselves as **working in the shadow of God**.

1. Which is exactly how the great composer **Johann Sebastian Bach** viewed his work. He said, *The aim and final reason ... of all music ... should be none else but the glory of God and their re-creation of the mind*. **Or**, as he wrote on every manuscript of every one of his more than 200 cantatas, Slide16c **Soli Deo Gloria**, **To God Alone be the Glory**. [Bach, Hayden, Beethoven]

a) Of course this was before the *post-modern, post-Christian era* stepped in to celebrate *the ugly* and *the meaningless*, in both music and art.

2. Slide16d Oholiab means (the) *father is my tent*.

D. Slide16e You Were Made For This ...

E. In the movie *Chariots of Fire*, Eric Liddell defended his devotion to running by telling his sister, "*God made me fast, and when I run I feel his pleasure.*"
When do you feel God's pleasure? When do you look up into the heavens and say, "*I was made to do this?*"

F. We tend to think of someone *being filled with the Spirit of God* as a prophet or perhaps a leader in battle. [Elijah or Gideon, Isaiah or Moses].

G. I bet when Moses heard he would **not be** the one doing *the actual building* he was relieved. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house, then later was a shepherd. *Craftsmanship* probably was not one of his best skills.

1. If the tabernacle were going to be built, it would require more than what **Moses** had to give. It would require people with skills that Moses did not possess. But here it is **a construction superintendent** who is being chosen and *filled with the Spirit*. Bezalel is **a Spirit-anointed contractor, a Spirit-empowered craftsman**.
2. The LORD has more than just *preaching* on His list of things that need to *get done*. There are **tabernacles** that need to be built, not just talked about. He calls and "*Spirits*" a wide range of craftsmen and craftswomen to transform His projects *from word to wood*, from *the ears to the hands*, from *instruction to construction*.

H. There is a tendency to have a **secular view** of skills, whatever those skills might be. But the Biblical view is that *they - are - graces*.

I. Slide17 The **work** of God is accomplished by **the Spirit** of God.

1. We all have *gifts, talents, and abilities*, but will you use them to build a **tabernacle** or a **golden calf**?

2. I believe what we have here is *natural God-given gifts*, but where **the Holy Spirit** steps in and *sanctifies* them. [christianity & creativity]
3. There are *miraculous gifts* that God does give people, but as we have been *created in the image of God*, He gives us each **talents and abilities**.
 - a) But with those **talents and abilities** we must allow **the Holy Spirit** to step in and **sanctify** them, and **strengthen** them, and **amplify** them.
4. **Bezalel** was already a craftsman. He invented *Legos, Lincoln logs, and the erector set* at the age of 5 :)
5. **We need the spirit of God to accomplish the work of God.**
We must love the Holy Spirit and **rely** on the Holy Spirit's work.
We must not be *professional christians*, or just go through *the motions* or *the mechanics*, and think that **life change** will happen. **No way.**
- J. We noticed this *filling of the Holy Spirit* is not **sensational**. It's sewing, it's building, fixing things and figuring out problems.
 1. Some gifts are **sensational**, but others are **service**: *like acts of mercy, helping, hospitality, administration.*
 - a) The apostles in Acts 6 said pick out men *filled w/the spirit* to do what? serve widows
 2. Sometimes you will ask yourself *was that the Spirit or was that me?*
 If you're a Christian, He is doing more than you recognize. **Make much of Jesus in your life!**
 3. **Someone filled with the spirit will gladly**: *serve widows, visit the sick, care for orphans, gladly make the coffee on Sunday, care for the babies in the nursery, tutor a disadvantage student, give offerings to those in need.*
 4. **Whatever you do, do to the glory of God and the mission of God.**
- K. **Slide 18 REST (12-17) - Why does God mention the Sabbath again here?** Maybe He's reminding His people that *even* the building of the sacred tabernacle was **not** a reason for breaking the Sabbath law. **God wants us to be balanced: work, rest, worship.**

L. **LAW** (18) - here, *the finger of God* wrote *the Word of God* on stone. He now writes it on our hearts, for those who trust Christ and worship him. (2 Cor.3:2,3 Paul not needing letters of rec of his *authority & legitimacy*, *You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. 3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with **the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on *tablets of human hearts*)*

1. Has He written on your heart?

M.**Keywords:** white collar, blue collar, priests, High Priest, garments, glory, beauty, art, urim, thummim, Bezalel, Oholiab, tabernacle, Holy Spirit.