

CONNECT GROUP TEACHING / DISCUSSION NOTES

Series - **GET INTO THE GAME**

Pt 3 – **SKILLS TRAINING**

Opener

As you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what Scripture passage, question, statement, story or insight most challenged or encouraged you?

Study

When a team drafts a player, the team doesn't tell the player to just go out there and play hard. There's a particular position on the team the player is to play, and it's usually a position the player has been developing his skills at for years.

The team says, "*you've got skills*" and then puts the player together with other players who have particular skills, and the team is filled out and completed that way.

After God had completed the freeing of the Israelites from 400 years of slavery and given them His Law on Mt Sinai, the very first thing this newly-formed, newly-free community of God's people do is build the Tabernacle, the building where God let His presence be known and felt and where the people could meet with Him.

And it's a huge deal: 40 chapters in Exodus are all about what the Tabernacle is supposed to be like, and how the people are called to contribute to building it.

God called them all, all these just recently freed slaves, to contribute to the work. They gave what they had brought with them from Egypt to construct the Tabernacle and they used their skills.

It's not clear from the Bible whether all the skills they used they already had, or if God miraculously gave some of them the skills on the spot to do the work, or whether it was God giving special ability in areas they already had skills to build the Tabernacle, but whatever the case was, God took the skills they had and empowered them to use them for Him in a way they never had before.

Think about the contrast between their work as slaves in Egypt and their new work as the people of God. In Egypt, they had no choice, but in the building of the Tabernacle, God says "*Everyone who is willing*" is to contribute. No compulsion, no coercion.

This was brand new for these people who were born and bred as slaves. Their whole lives were "have to", but not with God. And it wasn't for some cruel Egyptian overlord that they gave their possessions and did their work: it's for God, the God who has rescued them and set them free.

And the result is astonishing: when their work on the Tabernacle is done, God's presence descends on the place and God is with them and among them like He has never been with a people ever before in the history of the world.

