

MARCH 20, 2020

*Parashat Vayakhel-Pekkudei*      **Exodus 35:1-40:38**

Taught By:                                      Sully & Evan

### SUMMARY

Although this week we are wrapping up the book of *Shemot* by reading the last two *parashiyot* together, our study will focus on the first of these. In *Vayakhel* we read about *Moshe* gathering together the Israelites to remind them about the importance of taking *shabbat* as a day of rest.

*Moshe* also reviews G!d's instructions to the Israelites for building the *אֹתֶנֶן* and sets the wise-hearted artists *Betzalel* and *Oholiav* as the people to lead the work.

When *Moshe* asks for the Israelites to donate the materials needed to build the *אֹתֶנֶן*, they give so much that the artists tell *Moshe* that the Israelites more than what they need to build the *mishkan*. *Moshe* then tells the Israelites to stop giving.

By the end of *Vayakhel* they have built the tent to go over the *אֹתֶנֶן* as well as the screen for the entrance to the *אֹתֶנֶן*, the ark, the *kruvim*--which some people translate it as angels--that sit on top of its cover, the bread table, the seven-branched *menorah* and the copper washbowl and stand.



*Vayakhel* By Darius Gilmont

**SULLY:** Maybe *Moshe* reminds them of *shabbat* and resting, because they are about to work hard. Remembering that G'd gave them *shabbat* and a time to rest could help them out. A lot of work means that they will need a lot of rest.

**EVAN:** Maybe *Moshe* is telling them that even though the *mishkan* is important, they should keep the most important thing in mind. Shabbat is the most important day of the week. *Moshe* wants them to get as much rest as they can to be ready for the work to come.

2) What is important to you this week about *shabbat* and about resting?

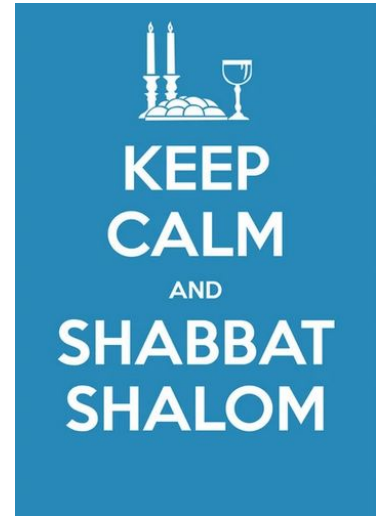
**EVAN:** Shabbat rest is about taking a break from creativity and making things. *Moshe* reminds the Israelites not to light fires in their homes on *shabbat*. In my family we take a break from lighting fires and lighting up electronics on the whole day of *shabbat* so we can light up our brains, each others' faces, and the faces of everyone in the world. This helps us remember we are holy.

**SULLY:** Not everyone who rests on *shabbat* follows the traditional Jewish *shabbat* rules. Even though the work we do is important, rest is important because it reminds us of how to be holy. Resting from work isn't about not sweating, it's about resting from making things. When we stop making things it can remind us that being holy is about who we are, not what we make.

**EVAN:** The Israelites grew up in slavery and now they are free. Maybe they

3) When the artists *Betzalel* and *Oholiav* notice that the Israelites are giving them too much stuff to build the *mishkan*, they tell *Moshe*. *Moshe* tells the Israelites to stop bringing them materials. Why do you think *Moshe* stops them?

1) Why do you think *Moshe* gathers all of the Israelites together to remind them of *shabbat* before they started collecting materials for and building the *mishkan*?



were giving too much because they were excited about building the *mishkan* and part of learning how to be free people is learning how to share the right amounts and in appropriate ways. Also--if they give too much stuff, then the *mishkan* will be overcrowded with stuff.