



Action Scene 5: Gladness and generosity

Action Scene 5 shows the Israelites bringing materials and starting work on the tabernacle as described in Exodus 35:4 – 36:7. See [Using Action Scenes](#) for ideas on using the Scene in the group or service. It is important that the Bible story of the Israelites bringing their gifts is related to the need for church members to make their own response to God within Giving in Grace. At or very close to this service the Giving in Grace literature, the brochure, the clergy letter and the response forms, will be distributed (or posted out where it is felt appropriate) with a request that the response forms be returned in a week or two at the Thanksgiving Service. Use the Action Scene in one or more of the following ways as you explore the story.

- Display the picture during the reading or retelling of the verses. The picture uses a wider selection of readings than the set Exodus reading for the day: use Exodus 35:4-10a; 20-29 and 35:30 – 36:7. The Lion Bible for Children has a good retelling of the story. Invite people to take turns at identifying aspects of the Action Scene that have just heard about in the reading.
- Cover a large, accessible wall with paper. Use OHP or data projector to display the Action Scene onto it. In advance, prepare a copy the picture by drawing over the projected image. Encourage members of the congregation to draw themselves in the picture in a place of their choice (a face or stick figure will do). If the whole congregation is taking part, this could be done over coffee after the service. Where appropriate encourage people to chat about their choice of location in the picture. Everyone could join in colouring or painting sections of the picture.
- Ask people to think about how the people in the Action Scene responded to God. Invite them to suggest words and phrases from the picture and from the hearing of the Bible story that describe the Israelites' response. Give each person a copy of the picture and write words around the image. Now invite people to pick a word at a time and comment on how it may be seen in the life of your church. Display these responses as well. Ask, *How could our response to God become more like that of the Israelites?*
- Check the list of items in 'Can you spot?' (below). Invite people to get into small, mixed-age groups and work together to find all the items within the Action Scene. Next ask people to pick items from the list and say if and where they might be found in the life of your church. Ask, *Does the picture make you think of any ways we as a church might need to change?*
- Ask, *if this was a picture of us as a church, which person in it is most like you at the moment? Which would you most like to be? What would make the difference?* Chat about your responses.

Can you spot...

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| • | <i>people working together</i> | <i>spices</i> | <i>gold</i> | <i>skilled work</i> |
| • | <i>olive oil</i> | <i>precious gifts</i> | <i>a saw</i> | <i>a plan</i> |
| • | <i>someone excited about giving more than is needed</i> | | | |
| • | <i>someone teaching a skill</i> | | | |
| • | <i>someone tired</i> | | | |
| • | <i>a reminder that God is present?</i> | | | |

Which of these can you identify in our life as a church? Are there any we should work on?