

# w/b 17th July 2016 Moses: Leader on the edge of overload

Questions/ study for small groups

## Exodus 18: Wise Counsel

In-laws are the favourite butt of jokes. Rarely are they portrayed in a positive light. But God places us in extended families to give us added wisdom and to shave off our rough edges.

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' wife and sons back to him. He also brought praise and worship to God. But he didn't stop there. This study shows how he made Moses face up to a weak link in his command. Jethro could be accused of meddling, but he was God's deliverer for Moses and Israel, just as much as Joshua and his soldiers were (17:8-16). Jethro forces us to examine our motives in doing Christian service.

## Warming Up to God

What burdens have you felt today as a result of your responsibilities?

## Discovering the Word

Read Exodus 18

- What facts do we learn about Jethro and Moses' family (vv. 1-4)?
- What do the names of Moses' sons recall for him and his family (vv. 3-4)?
- Why was worship the appropriate response to Moses' report (vv. 9-12)?
- What did Jethro observe about Moses' daily routine and the toll this was taking on Moses and the people (vv. 13-18)?
- How did Moses respond to Jethro's counsel (vv. 19-26)?

## Applying the Word

What impressions do you have of Moses' ego at this time in his life? How does this compare to his view of himself in Egypt as a young man and at the burning bush?

- What evidence is there to suggest Moses was not giving enough time to his family. What safeguards do you have in place to guard your family time?
- What dangers can we fall into when telling people about Christ that can make the message rather more about us and rather less about him?
- Why could it have been easy to overlook God's hand at work in this family reunion, compared to his provision of water, food and victories over the Egyptians and the Amalekites?
- If you are in a leadership position, are you thinking about planning to share the load. What will this do for you, for others and especially for younger leaders coming along?

## Responding in Prayer

Thank God for the people in your life who have given you wise counsel

Most questions are IVPs online study guide to Exodus 18. 1 or 2 have been amended slightly and a couple of additional questions have been thrown in too.