



Unit .05

Session .02

A Leader's Wisdom

Scripture



Exodus 18:7-18,24-27

7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and then kissed him. They asked each other how they had been and went into the tent. 8 Moses recounted to his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardships that confronted them on the way, and how the LORD rescued them. 9 Jethro rejoiced over all the good things the LORD had done for Israel when he rescued them from the power of the Egyptians. 10 "Blessed be the LORD," Jethro exclaimed, "who rescued you from the power of Egypt and from the power of Pharaoh. He has rescued the people from under the power of Egypt! 11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because he did wonders when the Egyptians acted arrogantly against Israel." 12 Then Jethro, Moses's father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses's father-in-law in God's presence. 13 The next day Moses sat down to judge the people, and they stood around Moses from morning until evening. 14 When Moses's father-in-law

saw everything he was doing for them he asked, "What is this thing you're doing for the people? Why are you alone sitting as judge, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" 15 Moses replied to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 16 Whenever they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I make a decision between one man and another. I teach them God's statutes and laws."

17 "What you're doing is not good," Moses's father-in-law said to him. 18 "You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can't do it alone." ...

24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. 25 So Moses chose able men from all Israel and made them leaders over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. 26 They judged the people at all times; they would bring the hard cases to Moses, but they would judge every minor case themselves. 27 Moses let his father-in-law go, and he journeyed to his own land.

When have you praised God because of His work in someone else's life?

How does God receive honor when we rejoice at all He is doing with others?



99 Essential Doctrines

Body of Christ

The New Testament describes the church as the body of Christ. The church lives and operates as Christ's representative here on earth, with Christ as its head (Col. 1:18). This means that the church is an extension of Christ's ministry, carrying out His work by fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). In addition, the picture of the church as the body of Christ shows us the interconnectedness of individual Christians, with each member dependent upon one another for growth and sanctification (1 Cor. 12).

Main Point

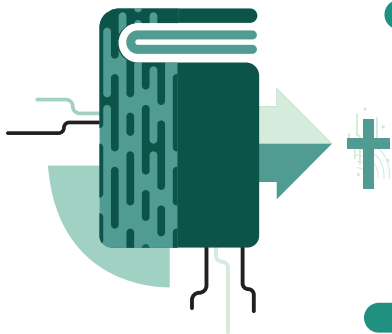
God equips His people with wisdom.

**When has someone in a leadership position delegated responsibility to you?
When have you delegated responsibility while in a position of leadership?**

How might a solo leader, no matter how good he or she is, hurt the people being led?

In what other areas of life do you think this leadership principle exists?

What burdens are you carrying that you need to let God handle?



Christ Connection

Moses needed others to help him complete the task of preserving the unity of God's people and teaching them God's laws. God has provided us the church body, with Christ as the head, to work together to fulfill our task of sharing the gospel to the world and bringing others into His body.



Head

Read Ephesians 4:11-13. In your own words, describe the purpose for these offices within the church.

Why do you think God designed it so that no one person could fulfill each of these roles?



Heart

Why should we be more like Jethro, rejoicing over what God has done in someone else's life?

How might God use our rejoicing to draw others to Himself?



Hands

In what areas do you need to practice better leadership skills? How will you go about making those changes?

Who do you know who needs godly counsel this week? How can you point them toward Christ?

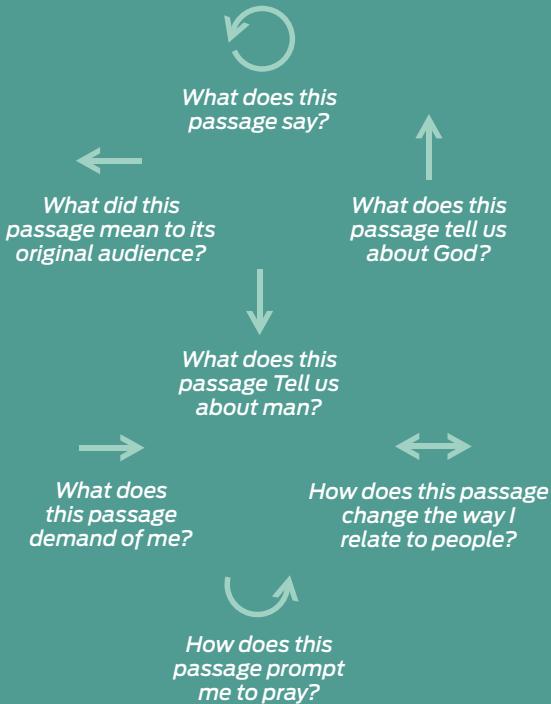
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Exodus 18:1-12

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



When Moses went out to greet Jethro, he asked his father-in-law how he was and then invited him to join him in his tent. There, he told Jethro of all that had happened—all the Lord had done to that point. But notice something: Jethro had already heard what God did for His people (v. 1).

Why does this matter? Because it shows us something important about sharing good news and rejoicing in it with others. Jethro didn't interrupt Moses and tell him that he didn't need to share the stories again. Instead, it seems he wanted to hear about everything again. Good news cannot be heard too much, and surely Moses' first-hand account added deeper richness to what Jethro had heard before.

For us, this is a reminder that good news—and the gospel is the best news of all—is worth telling and hearing repeatedly. We cannot hear the gospel preached too much; we need it to seep down from our minds into our hearts daily. We also can't share the gospel too much. Just like Jethro and Moses, the gospel is worthy of rejoicing over every single time it is shared.

**When did you last hear the gospel?
Share it? Rejoice over it?**

Philippians 2:14-15; 3:1

Jethro offered a positive example of what it looks like to rejoice with others in what the Lord has done, but as we have seen, the children of Israel struggled to get there. Jethro heard and rejoiced, yet the children of Israel experienced and grumbled. With every sigh, complaint, and accusation, the Israelites revealed hearts that were ungrateful for all God had done.

In Philippians 2:14-15, Paul warned us about being constant complainers, like the Israelites. There is no place for grumbling and arguing, because when we fail to reflect minds, hearts, and a worldview transformed by the gospel. Our complaining is camouflage that makes us appear more like the world than our true selves—forgiven people who have been given Christ's righteousness. But if we cast aside grumbling and arguing and rejoice in the Lord instead (Phil. 3:1), we will shine as beacons of light in the dark would around us. This is why we fix our gaze on Christ—who He is and what He has done—so we can anchor our joy on this unchanging truth and not on our ever changing situations in life.

What about the Lord makes you rejoice? What has He done recently to make you rejoice?

Exodus 18:13-18

The next day after Moses recounted all the Lord had done, Moses went out and judged the people from morning until evening. Jethro noticed how Moses heard case after case and how Moses was not the only one who had such a long day; the people stood and waited for their cases to be heard just as long. But notice what Jethro did next: He asked Moses what was going on. Then, only after Moses confirmed what he had seen did Jethro play the judge for Moses.

Showing such wisdom and restraint is difficult for us at times. We tend to rush from observation to judgment, a problem only heightened by the information and digital age we live in. But true wisdom takes time to listen. It takes time to consider that we might not see the whole story, or that we might not see the story clearly. Wisdom is not just what we share, it is how we share: in humility, with love and respect.

How does approaching others in humility reflect the gospel?

Matthew

7:1-6

Confrontation is difficult for many of us. We are uncomfortable with it. We aren't sure if the risk is worth it. At times, we question our place to confront someone else, especially when some have used this passage to argue that we should not confront others. However, when we look closely at this passage, we see Christ clarifying the right way to confront someone, not forbidding confrontation.

Jesus said that before we confront someone else about an issue, we should examine ourselves in the mirror, looking for that issue specifically. We are not looking for perfection here, but hypocrisy. Are we about to share any wisdom that we have not followed ourselves?

We also need to make sure our motivation for confronting the person is right. We confront a person for one reason: to help that person. In this way, our confrontation is a selfless act of love—we take on the risk solely for the other person's gain. Because we care about others and we care about how they reflect the gospel in how they live, we confront. We then hope and pray that they would do the same for us.

Who might you need to confront for God's glory and their good? Who has confronted you in the past who you might want to thank and encourage for their love for you?

Exodus

18:19-27

Jethro's suggestion that Moses share his burden of judging the people was wise—it was a way for Moses and the people to be more efficient and to avoid burn-out. Sharing our burdens with others is more than that; it is gospel-centered as well.

When we carry our burdens by ourselves, we are walking in pride. We want to show others, and ourselves, that we are strong enough to carry the weight or that no one else can help us. But when we gladly invite others to come alongside us and share the load we have been given, we walk in humility—the natural posture of people under the power of the gospel. We recognize that we are not strong, but weak. We are not independent, but dependent on Christ and His church. Christ's strength is manifested in our weakness, His glory in our humility and neediness, and His love in His faithful provision. Sharing burdens with one another, like all of what God does in our lives, is for His glory and our good.

When have you refused to share a burden? Why? What happened?