

Lesson 2: Moses and Jethro's Visit

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 18 and see that Jethro – Moses Father-in-law – comes for a visit
- 2) See that we should take wise advice from older church members
- 3) Learn that we can find answers in the Bible for our issues today
- 4) Understand that we need to be taught how to lead and serve in the church
- 5) Recognize that we may be doing too much and it will cause us to “wear ourselves out”

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Jethro's Wise Advice Sheet – one per student
- Wise Advice Construction Paper Chain – various colored construction paper for students to share – approximately 1-2 sheets per student
- Scissors to share
- Stapler to share or tape

Optional:

- Jethro's Advice Crossword
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Trail Mix (check for nut or gluten allergies first) handful for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Once children are seated say:

We are continuing our study of the Israelites today and the account of Moses as they travelled in the wilderness. Today we are going to study Exodus Chapter 18 – Moses' Father-in-law visits.

But first, can anyone remember what we studied last week? Allow students to raise hands and answer: we studied the fight with the Amalekites and how God was very displeased that the Amalekites tried to hurt the innocent Israelites who were wandering in the desert. We also studied that the Israelites were complaining again about lack of water and Moses was told by God to use his rod to strike the rock to make water come out and Moses obeyed God!

2) Jethro's Visit and Wise Advice

20-25 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Ask the students:

Who should we take advice from? (Let students raise hands and answer)

We should usually take advice from older and wiser people. People in the church. People we can trust and who have gone through similar experiences. We can also take advice from the Bible and we should! The Bible shows us examples of what Godly people went through and what the result was. We can look to this for guidance. Let's think about this as we study Exodus 18.

Ask for a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 18:1-7

Questions:

Who did Jethro bring to Moses in the desert? His daughter Zipporah and her two children by Moses - Gershom and Eliezer. **They had stayed with Jethro when Moses with the help of God, went back to Egypt to rescue the Israelites.**

Now ask someone to read Exodus 18:8-12.

Questions:

How did Jethro feel about Moses and God? He was pleased that Moses through God, was able to help save the Israelites and it says in verse 9 (Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the Lord had done).

In verse 10 what does Jethro say? Praise be to the Lord

What did Moses and Jethro do in verse 12? Offer burnt offering and other sacrifices to God.

Would you say Jethro was a believer and follower of God? Yes.

Ask for a volunteer to read Exodus 18:13-18

Questions:

Why was Jethro concerned? Because Moses was doing all the work and the people would have to stand around all day waiting for him.

What did Jethro say was going to happen to Moses? He would wear himself out and the work is too heavy to handle alone.

What did Jethro mean by this? Let the students answer.

Let's look at the Bible and what it says about work and rest.

Hand out one Jethro's Wise Advice sheet to each student along with a pencil.

Go through the first part of the page Jethro's Advice Exodus 18:18 and read **Exodus 18:18** first.

Read the verses and have the students fill in the blanks as a group so you can read aloud for those younger students who may not be able to read well on their own.

Answers:

Weary

Rest

Souls

Eat

Quiet

Have the students put down their pencils and then continue reading from Exodus.

Now let's turn to Exodus 18:19-27, can I get a volunteer to read?

After reading Exodus 18:19:27 ask the following

Questions:

What was Jethro's Advice in verse 20? Teach them the laws and decrees so they could do some of the duties and know how to live

What were the qualifications Jethro suggested of those people who would serve in verse 21?

They were to be capable, fear God, and be trustworthy. Capable means able to do the work – you

wouldn't pick someone who is not qualified or who doesn't have the skills to do it. Fearing God means respecting God and living their lives in accordance with God's will. Trustworthy means able to be relied upon. If someone asks them to do something, it gets done. If that person says they will do something, it gets done well. They can be trusted to do the job.

Did Moses obey and listen to the wise advice? Yes

In order for us to serve in the church should we be capable, fear God and be trustworthy? Yes

How can we serve in the church today? Help clean up, visit with guests and older members, help take care of the small children, sing when we are supposed to sing to God, be quiet when we are supposed to be quiet, listen to the sermon instead of playing games or bothering our brothers and sisters, etc.

Who are people we should listen to and take advice from? Preacher, older members in the church who fear God, are trustworthy and are capable, Godly parents who follow the Bible, etc.

Before we listen to anyone's advice, what can we do to make sure it is what God wants? Read the Bible and pray. If God wants it we will find it in the Bible.

Now let's finish the sheet we started on Jethro's Advice

Read the second part of Jethro's Advice **Exodus 18:20** aloud again and then have students read through the verses on the page and fill in the blanks as a group as you go.

Answers:

Teaching **Obey**

Finally, read **Exodus 18:21-22** and fill in the blanks while reading the Bible verses for the rest of the page.

Answers:

Fear **Duty** **Serve**

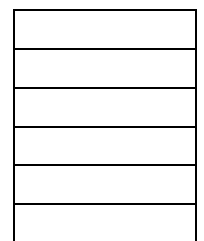
Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

3) Wise Advice Construction Paper Chains

15 minutes

Tell the students, **now that we have studied Jethro's advice and what the Bible says about his advice, we are going to make a chain of paper circles to help us remember what good advice we learned today as well.**

Hand out different colored construction paper, markers, and scissors and have the children cut out 5 or 6 strips about 3 inches wide and the width of the paper. See example. After students have cut out enough strips of different colors for their chains, have them think of good advice they learned today from the story of Jethro and Moses: examples: learning to rest and to work in balance, praising God, believe in God, learn how to serve in the church and be willing to help, fear God, and be honest. Capable and trustworthy.



And write or draw these examples – one on each piece of paper. Then, roll the paper with the words facing out and make a circle and staple or tape it together. Next, take another chain and fold it with the words out and form a circle with the circle going through the other circle to make a chain, tape or staple. Continue until all the strips of paper have formed a chain. See picture below.



4) Optional – Jethro’s Advice Crossword

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to anyone who finishes their chains early or for older children who would rather do a crossword than a craft activity.

Have them read the clues and then look up the verse to find the answer in the crossword.

Answers are:

Down

Rest

Everything

Sabbath

Trustworthy

Ready

Only

Across

Quiet

Decrees

Vain

Bible

Lord

Feared

5) Optional – Snack : Trail Mix

5 minutes

Hand out some trail mix to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. *Ensure no child has a nut or gluten allergy beforehand. Explain that, **“Today we learned that even though Moses was a powerful righteous man – he was willing to take wise advice from his father-in-law a believer in God. Let’s talk about what we learned today while we snack on some trail mix – a typical hiking or walking food.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

6) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you; choose from the songs in the front of your binder.

7) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray. Remember to also ask God for help in studying the Old Testament.

Thank God that He took care of the Israelites and He will take care of us too! Thanks also to God for giving us good examples in the Bible to learn from and to learn that we need to balance work and rest, we need to talk to those people older in the church whom we can trust for advice and we need to be trained and train others on how to serve in the church so we can all share the load and not make it too hard for any one person! In Jesus loving name, Amen.