

Jethro Visits Moses

Exodus 18:1-27

The Big Idea: We are ambassadors for Christ.

Read the passage

Story Summary for Children:

After the Israelites defeated the Amalekites, Moses' father-in-law Jethro came for a visit. He brought with him Moses' wife and children, whom Moses had sent to Jethro earlier. When Jethro arrived, Moses told him all about what God had done for Israel. Jethro was amazed and declared that the God of Israel was the greatest God of all.

The next day, Jethro watched as Moses served as judge for all the people. From morning until evening, the Israelites stood in line to bring their cases to Moses. Moses listened to the people and settled their arguments, but night arrived before Moses could finish. Jethro saw this and told Moses that serving as the only judge was a bad idea. Moses and the people were worn out!

Jethro advised Moses to teach every one God's laws so that all the people would know what God required of them. He also told Moses to select trustworthy men to watch over the people and hear their cases. These new judges would decide the easy cases and only take the harder ones to Moses. Moses agreed it was a good idea and began appointing judges to help him share the load.

Family Lesson Discussion Questions:

1. Who came to visit Moses? (Jethro, his father-in-law)
2. How did he respond to God's mighty acts? (He declared that God was the greatest god of all)
3. Who served as judge to settle all the disputes of Israel? (Moses)
4. What was Jethro's advice to Moses? (to teach the people and then set up judges for the people)

Family Lesson Discussion Questions:

1. What was the purpose of God's laws? (to help the people live life God's way)
2. Why was it important for the people to share the load? (to keep every one from wearing out)
3. How can we share the load with our family?
4. How can we share the load with our spiritual community?

Memory Verse: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." (2 Corinthians 5:20a)

Parents: Talk with your family about ways you share the load with others, including your family and church. Talk specifically about how you can "be the church" and not just go to church.

A Look Ahead: Next week the passage is Exodus 19:1-25 and the Big Idea will be, "We are set apart for Christ (made to be holy), that the world may know him." Ask your family, "What makes you different from others?" You may also want to read next week's passage with your child and start explaining the story.