**1. Motivate**

What are some interesting words of advice you have heard?

* buy low, sell high
* life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re going to get
* opportunities don’t happen, you create them
* Many hands make light work.
* Strike while the iron is hot.
* Honesty is the best policy.
* The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
* Don't judge a book by its cover.
* An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
* Better late than never.

**2. Transition**

Today we consider advice given to that great leader, Moses.

* Be ready to give and receive godly wisdom.

**3. Bible Study**

A video introduction is available for the lesson. To view, go to <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_7iarj21q> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4ubhutss>

3.1 Acknowledge God at Work

Listen for praise to the Lord.

Exodus 18:9-11 (NIV) Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. 10 He said, "Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. 11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly."

Jethro was Moses’ father-in-law. Over what did he rejoice?

* he was delighted to hear about all the good things God had done rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt
* know he could see that Jehovah is greater than all other deities
* God totally defeated Egypt and their deities (the plagues were blows against specific gods Egypt worshiped)

What kinds of God given victories could a family be celebrating?

* a graduation
* a child makes a profession of faith
* a new job, a new home
* a prodigal returns home, repenting
* protection from harm in an accident
* recovery from a life-threatening medical problem
* ongoing victory over an addiction

What kinds of God given victories could a church be celebrating?

* a mortgage being paid off
* lives of specific people being changed, rescued from lives of sin
* the dedication of a new building
* families dedicating newborns to the Lord
* couples who have been together for 50 years (or more) of marriage
* young people who are being sent out to full time Christian service

Why is it so important to acknowledge God’s work?

* it is too easy to take the credit for ourselves
* God deserves our praise
* He is the One who worked the miracle
* He is the One who supplied all your needs
* it wasn’t good luck or just “fortunate”, it was God who protected, provided
* it is God who opens the door of opportunity
* it is God who closes a dangerous door of a poor choice

3.2 Constructive Criticism

Listen for Jethro’s evaluation.

Exodus 18:14-18 (NIV) When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?" 15 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. 16 Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws." 17 Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. 18 You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

What observation did Jethro make about the work of Moses?

* saw all the work Moses was doing for the people
* wanted to know exactly what it was that was taking all Moses’ time and energy
* wondered why Moses was the only one in this role
* could see that Moses was going to be worn out, worked to the bone
* could see that so many people were just standing round waiting, wasting time

How did Moses seek to explain—maybe even try to justify—his work?

* it’s a good thing that people want to do God’s will
* they need to know what God’s will is
* they need to act according to God’s decrees and laws
* I’m the one with what they need to know
* they need someone with wisdom and good judgment to settle their disputes

What appeared to be Jethro’s concern?

* overall, this is not a good plan
* you’re going to wear yourself out
* the work is too much for one man
* you cannot do this alone

What are signs of burnout in ministering to others?

* frustration
* frazzled
* begin to have a negative attitude
* may lash out as result of the frustration

What are the dangers of trying to do too much by yourself?

* Jethro had it right – you burn out
* you’ll end up doing a poor job
* much of what needs to be done will not get done
* there are other people who will not be learning how to do what they could be doing

What are some examples of the difference between *constructive criticism* and *just being critical*? (Teacher: Give one of the statements on one side, ask for an example of the opposite.)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Being Critical – Instead of saying … | Constructive Criticism – Better to say … |
| * you’re stupid
* you’re a liar
* you work too hard
* you are lazy
* that was a poor job you did
* you didn’t dress for the occasion
* if you say that, people will hate you
 | * you need more wisdom
* I don’t agree with your assessment
* You should pace yourself
* you could be doing more about this
* let me help you improve what you did
* can I help you with your appearance?
* let’s rephrase some of these statements
 |

3.3 Encourage with Sound Counsel

Listen for Jethro’s advice.

Exodus 18:19-21 (NIV) Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. 20 Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. 21 But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

What advice did Jethro give?

* Moses should be the people’s representative before God
* He should teach them the decrees and laws
* then they would be able to make good decisions on their own
* delegate men to listen to the more common issues, only let the difficult cases come to you

In what ways was Jethro a help?

* observed events
* listened to Moses’ problems
* offered good advice
* pointed out problems that Moses wasn’t seeing

What qualities was Moses to look for in his selection of individuals to assist him in the work?

* capable
* fear God
* trustworthy
* hate dishonest gain (cannot be bribed)

Why are the personal qualities of a leader important to working with people?

* must have people skills – basically, the Fruit of the Spirit
* love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control
* must have a vision of what can be achieved, what God is doing
* like Moses, should have humility – not think less of yourself, but think of yourself less

Why do our friends sometimes see problems and solutions that we do not?

* not quite as emotionally involved in the situation
* able to be more objective
* maybe have already had experience in the problem we are encountering
* they’ve been this way before … they know the problems, pitfalls, options
* they are able to identify with how we feel and mirror back to us what we are feeling but unable to express

⇨ We *need* this kind of friend … someone who would ***counsel us through problems***

What chances do you take when you offer this kind of friendship to someone you know?

* we risk rejection
* we might offend them, implying that they cannot handle their own life effectively
* it takes time and effort

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

⇨ We need to *be* this kind of friend

Application

Pray.

* Over the next week, pray each day that God would either lay on your heart someone you want to learn from or someone you could help.

 Seek.

* Intentionally search out someone who could serve as a mentor to you.
* Ask this person to prayerfully consider walking alongside you and helping you grow.

 Invest.

* Choose to mentor someone else.
* Ask someone if he or she would be willing to walk alongside you and allow you to speak into his or her life.

Fallen Phrases Puzzle



This is what you get when your decoders use cheap glue. Their decoded message falls apart. All the letters fell straight down from where they were. Our technical staff have gone to middle school graduation parties, so we need your help. Start with columns that have a single letter missing. Then work with two and three letter words, choosing letters to make sensible words. Cross out the letters you use as you go along. When you decode the message send the results to your Committee on Committees. If you need help or would rather do the Crossword, go to <https://tinyurl.com/4ubhutss>