

“The Gifts of Family, Faith & Wise Counsel”

*Exodus 18*

In-laws are often the butt of jokes in our culture and rarely portrayed in a positive light. But God places us in extended families to give us added wisdom and support. In today's study we see in-laws supporting on another in their family, faith, and work.

Opening Question(s) – choose (a) or (b)

- a) What main gift(s) have you brought to, and/or received from, your extended family (i.e. in-laws or a main relational network you have)?
- b) What is the longest time you've been apart from your family?

Discussion Questions

- 1) **Read Exodus 18:1-12.** What stands out to you most in this story? What questions came to mind when you read it?
- 2) What facts do we learn about Jethro and Moses' family (vv.1-4)?
- 3) Why do you think Moses had send his wife and kids to be with his father-in-law (cf. 4:20)? Why Jethro bring them back (vv.5-6)?
- 4) How well do you think Moses & Jethro got along? What was their main topic of conversation?
- 5) What does Jethro's response tell us about his faith? What do you make of Aaron's and the elders' response in v.12?
- 6) **Read Exodus 18:13-27.** What did Jethro notice from watching Moses' day at the office? What do you make of Jethro's initial response (v.14)? His follow up response (vv.17-23)?
- 7) How did Moses' respond to his father-in-law's counsel?
- 8) Some people think Moses' shouldn't have been taking worldly advice from a Midianite. Should he have? Why or why not?
- 9) How open are you to seeing/hearing God's counsel through your parents, in-laws, friends, spouse, church? Whose counsel do you rely on (or miss) most?
- 10) Who influenced/helped you in your journey to faith? How so?
- 11) How can this group support you in prayer now and in the coming week?