

EVERYBODY CARRIES SOMETHING

DISCOVERING GOD'S DESIGN
FOR SHARED MINISTRY

EXODUS 18:13–27



FOUR TRUTHS FROM THE TEXT

CONTEXT OF THE TEXT

God has delivered Israel from Egypt and Moses is leading a growing nation through the wilderness. Every day people bring their disputes, questions, and problems to Moses. Moses tries to handle everything himself.

When Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, arrives, he sees a serious problem. Moses is carrying a burden that God never intended one person to carry alone. Jethro's advice teaches us how God's people are supposed to function in community.

KEY IDEA

God designed His people to share the work of ministry so that no one carries the burden alone.



1 COMMUNITY REQUIRES SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Jethro told Moses what he was doing was not good. God's work was never meant to rest on one person's shoulders.



2 COMMUNITY REQUIRES TRUST

Moses had to trust others. Healthy communities trust people to use the gifts God has given them.



3 COMMUNITY REQUIRES PARTICIPATION

Belonging means participation. The question is not "What can the church do for me?" but "What can God do through me?"



4 COMMUNITY REVEALS CALLING

Community often reveals gifts that isolation conceals. Some leaders never discover their calling until someone gives them something to carry.

“You will certainly wear out, both you and these people who are with you, because this thing is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.” — EXODUS 18:18





STUDY THE TEXT: EXODUS 18:13-27

Read the Scripture and fill in the blanks below as you discover what Jethro taught Moses about how God's people are called to work together.

1 COMMUNITY REQUIRES SHARED RESPONSIBILITY Exodus 18:13-18



1. Jethro tells Moses that what he is doing is not _____.
2. God's work was never meant to rest on one person's _____.
3. Just because you can carry it doesn't mean God intended for you to carry it _____.

2 COMMUNITY REQUIRES TRUST Exodus 18:19-22



1. Moses had to learn to _____ others.
2. Healthy communities trust people to use the _____ God has given them.
3. The Body grows when leaders stop controlling everything and start _____ everyone.

3 COMMUNITY REQUIRES PARTICIPATION Exodus 18:21-22



1. Belonging means _____.
2. The question is not "What can the church do for me?" but "What can God do _____ me?"
3. Everybody cannot do everything, but everybody can do _____.

4 COMMUNITY REVEALS CALLING Exodus 18:23-27



1. Community often reveals gifts that _____ conceals.
2. Some leaders never discover their calling until someone gives them something to _____.
3. God often reveals purpose through _____.



DIGGING DEEPER

Read Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

How do these passages help explain Jethro's advice to Moses?



DID YOU KNOW?

The system Jethro recommended created leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. This structure helped ensure that people received care while preventing Moses from becoming overwhelmed. Jethro's advice was one of the earliest examples in Scripture of shared leadership and distributed ministry. God's people function best when everyone participates according to their gifts and responsibilities.



LIVE IT!

This week, choose at least two ways to put this lesson into action.

- Identify one way you can serve others.
- Ask someone what gifts they see in you.
- Volunteer in a ministry area.
- Encourage someone carrying a heavy burden.
- Pray for God to reveal where you can contribute.



PRAYER

Lord, thank You for giving each of us gifts and responsibilities within Your family. Help us move from spectators to participants and teach us to share the work of ministry so that Your church may flourish. In Jesus' name, Amen.

