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from **Godly Pearls**

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this resource.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic: Jethro – An example of wise counsel and leadership.



Read the Bible References:

The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goal of Lesson:

- To encourage students to listen and take wise counsel and advice.



Lesson Takeaway:

God uses experienced and godly people to teach us wisdom.



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Date:



Topic:

Jethro – An example of wise counsel and leadership .



Bible References:

Exodus 18:1 – 27



Who was Jethro?

In the book of Exodus, we learn about Jethro. He was also known as Reuel. Jethro was the father-in-law of Moses and the priest of Midian. He played a significant role in providing wise counsel to Moses, helping him to lead the people of Israel more effectively.



What did Jethro do?

In Exodus 18, we read about something that happened between Jethro and Moses. Jethro visited Moses when he was leading the people of Israel through the wilderness. Jethro brought Moses' wife, Zipporah, and his two sons with him. During his visit, Jethro noticed how Moses was judging the people from morning till evening. Moses was the only one settling issues among the people that had problems.

In Exodus 18:17 – 18, the bible says, “So Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself”. Jethro explained to Moses the danger of continuing to settle issues among the Israelites all by himself; he will get tired quickly and won’t be doing his best. He told him plainly: you cannot do this all by yourself.





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What did Jethro do? (Contd.)

Jethro then gave his wise counsel to Moses on how to ask other leaders to help him.

“And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you (Exodus 18:20-22).

Jethro gave Moses a plan of action that would help him to judge and lead the people of Israel in a way that worked well and did not make him too tired and stressed. Did Moses take this wise counsel, or did he ignore it and continue to do things the way he used to?

Well, Moses listened to his father-in-law and followed his advice. He selected skilled men as leaders over the people and assigned the responsibility of judging smaller matters to them. He then focused on judging the cases that were very difficult for these leaders to handle by themselves.

This new system improved how the people of Israel were managed.





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What can we learn from Jethro?

Jethro's story teaches us about the importance of wise counsel, effective leadership, and assigning responsibilities to others.

1. The advice that Jethro gave to Moses shows that it is important to seek counsel from experienced and godly people. When we listen to wise counsel and take advice, we can find solutions to problems that are difficult (Proverbs 15:22). It is good to listen to the godly leaders that God has put in our lives; they are there to help us (Hebrews 13:17).
2. Jethro advised Moses to share the responsibility and task of judging the people with other leaders. This ensured that Moses is not too stressed and tired from doing the work alone. Other people can also use their skills to help Moses. They can achieve more by sharing the work. When we are part of a team or have been asked by a leader to help, it is good to help so that as a team, you can achieve more (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). You will also be able to use your skills and talents to solve problems (Romans 12:4-6).
3. The counsel of Jethro to Moses shows us the importance of asking help from capable and trustworthy individuals. There are people everywhere that are willing to help if you ask them. You might not even know what they can do until you ask them. So, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help (Matthew 7:7). You don't have to do it all alone by yourself.
4. Jethro was a priest and experienced with dealing with people as a priest. He was able to provide godly counsel to Moses. Be careful of the advice you take (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 13:20). There are many advice on any matter today – just search the internet or ask a friend. Not all advice is godly. It is important to value and listen to godly advice rather than ungodly advice (Proverbs 10:1). Godly advice will help us make good decisions.





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Memorize:

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days (Proverbs 19:20).



Scenario Review:

Imagine you are the leader of a drama group in your school. You are planning a stage drama as part of the end-of-year event at your school. There are a lot of things to do, and many people are taking part in the drama. You are planning rehearsals, snacks, event tickets, costumes, etc. You are beginning to feel stressed. Your parents advise you to get about six people that can help you with the planning, so you don't have to do everything alone. What will you do?

Why did you make that choice?



Remember: God uses experienced and godly people to teach us wisdom.



Let us pray: Dear God, thank You because You have good plans for me and You want me to succeed. Thank You for the godly people You have put around me that can teach me wisdom. Help me to recognize and take godly advice as You give me opportunities to lead. When I am part of a team, help me to do my best to help. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!

