

## Shared Leadership

Our lives have been spent working with other people - even from birth! Whether you started to understand the concept of team from sports or some other experience, all of us have either worked or played in an environment where it takes more than one person to accomplish the task. Far too often, “team” is not the approach for leadership in the church. Generally, we heap the responsibility of ministry onto the shoulders of a few people. Then, when our leaders get tired, overburdened, or burnt out and quit, we wonder why or find them to be incompetent.

In Exodus 18 we read the story of Jethro, who was Moses’ father-in-law, coming to visit Moses. At the time, Moses was serving as the one and only judge over all of Israel. For hundreds of thousands of Israelites, Moses was

the only person who could seek God’s will or settle disputes between people. It seems that Moses was taking a traditional view of leadership where the central leader makes all of the decisions. Jethro however, immediately saw a problem with this approach. In Exodus 18:17 he said to Moses, “What you are doing is not good... you will wear yourself out... the work is too heavy for you. You cannot handle it alone.” Jethro then went on to give Moses advice. He told Moses to share the leadership workload by appointing capable men to serve as officials and judges over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. In the end, Israel shared in the leadership responsibilities saving both their nation *and* Moses’ sanity!

### Questions:

In what areas are you holding on to too much leadership responsibility, control, or power?

Who on your team has the potential and character to step up into greater levels of leadership responsibility?

What leadership responsibilities do you see that others may be better suited for than yourself?”

### JESUS SHARES AUTHORITY

We clearly see in Scripture that Jesus not only shared his power and authority, but he freely GAVE his power and authority to others. In Mark 3:13-15 we read a brief passage about Jesus appointing the twelve disciples:

“Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and *to have authority* to drive out demons.”

Now, let's look at some of the verbs that are used in this passage to give us a better perspective on Jesus's leadership tactics. These verbs give us some insights about how to share leadership. Jesus **CALLED** people that he **WANTED** to serve in leadership with him. Those people **CAME** and **RESPONDED** to Jesus' invitation, presumably by their own choice. Jesus didn't force them into leadership positions, but gave them a choice. Jesus then **APPOINTED** the 12 as leaders (apostles). Jesus **GAVE** the apostles opportunities to **BE WITH** him, which certainly provided them with opportunities to learn from him. Jesus **SENT** them out to **PREACH** and **HAVE AUTHORITY** to **DRIVE OUT** demons.

**Questions:**

Are you practicing shared leadership in your Life Group? If not, why?

Who in your group should you be giving leadership responsibility too?

How are you going to share responsibilities within the group?

Who do you WANT to serve in leadership with you?

Have you CALLED those leaders out?

Have you given them a chance to COME to you in response to serve in leadership?

How can you officially APPOINT people into leadership roles and responsibilities?

How can you give people opportunities to BE with you and learn from you?

In what ways can you SEND leaders out and GIVE them leadership AUTHORITY?