

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"SHARED MINISTRY" | EXODUS 18 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is the best food to offer someone before you have to share some serious advice?

"Sharing the Story" - (Exodus 18: 1-8)

Jethro had watched his son-in-law leave to face Pharaoh and free his people, an impossible task, and Moses shares how God brings him victory and Jethro is impressed. What do people learn about God when He completes what He starts?

"Sharing the Praise" - (Exodus 18: 9-12)

Jethro offers sacrifices to God and Moses, Aaron and the elders all share this special meal. What is important about celebrating what God has done with others? What are things that get in the way of this?

"Sharing the Service" - (Exodus 18: 13-27)

We see Jethro identify that if Moses leads by himself, he won't endure and the people will wear out. What causes leaders like Moses to not share their responsibilities? What are ways this wears people out?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In this passage Jethro believed that there were people who were able and God-fearing with character who could share the burden of leading the Israelites. He believed "God will direct" through sharing the burden, in other words, it's an act of faith. Sharing with others takes work and risk, but from the beginning God has said "it is not good for man to be alone". Are you sharing your burdens with others? Have you asked God to reveal trustworthy people you can share with?

Shared Ministry

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Larry: Hope Min. Men's. Ladies. Ministry Fair.
- B. Ministry Fair - watch and see how that ties in to *Exodus 18* this morning.
- C. Prayer: May we live the **Great Commandment** (love God/man) & fulfill the **Great Commission**.
 1. Goodrich's who lost their 18yr old daughter, shot/killed in Corona Theater. Nikki Villegas

II. Slide6 Intro: Shared Ministry

- A. This week our narrative **transitions away from** the wilderness difficulties **and** the anticipation of receiving the law at Sinai.
 1. We run into once again **Jethro**, Moses his father-in-law, who will educate us on *the importance of leadership, working smarter not harder, sharing the load, and the importance of Shared Ministry*.
 2. We met **Jethro/Reuel** in ch.2. When Moses was 40 killed the Egyptian, so he fled to Midian. **Saves Reuel's 7 daughters watering camels**. Reuel gives him his daughter Zipporah, have baby 1, then 2. **On way back to Egypt sends Zipper & boys back to dad** (never says why, **but** here they're *reunited*)

III. SHARED MINISTRY (read all)

- A. Moses 2 boys told the story of his life: **Gershom** (stranger there) **Eliezer** (God's my help).
 1. *I was a stranger there, but God is my helper!*
- B. Slide7 **Jethro** - **not** Jethro *on Beverly Hillbillies*, **nor** Jethro Gibbs *on NCIS*, **nor** the Jethro Tull band, **but** *the priest Midian*.
- C. Slide8a **Moses is taking advice from his father-in-law**. He is a Midianite priest. He was outside the faith, a priest of another religion. **Or is he still?**
- D. We see the gospel witness from Moses (8). [though **Gospel** is a NT word, means *good news*]
 1. **He probably shared:** about the burning bush, plagues of rivers to blood, insects, amphibians, disease storms of hail, darkness, death of 1st born,

redemption, Israel saved *by the blood of the Lamb*, Red Sea crossing, bread from heaven, water from rock, defeat of the Amalekites.

E. **And** Jethro's response seems to be, *Now I get it* (9).

1. **Slide8b** The only thing missing here in their *family reunion* is the **chicken and potato salad**. **This is possibly Jethro's conversion?** (*re-read* 10,11)
 - a) Earlier he was skeptical, **but** now he sees *a super-power defeated*, **and** that this God of Israel is an active God, who dealt with Egypt's pride.
2. **It seems Jethro believes in Yahweh:** as we see he *offers sacrifices and a shares in a covenant meal* (12).
3. **But** I need to add, *not all commentators believe this*. Elsewhere in the OT, other **non-Israelites** invoke the name of **Yahweh** with no particular faith in Him. (Gen 26:28–29; Josh 2:9–11; 1 Kgs 5:7; 2 Chr 2:11; Jonah 1:16)

F. **Slide9a** **Moses is helping w/all disputes**. 600,000 men (+ wife and children).

1. This is hard enough in *just your own family!*
2. **They have no government system set up yet**. There is no *trias politica* (separation of powers). **Moses is the legislative, executive, & judicial** branch.
3. **Moses isn't trying to be a one man show**. He's just trying to be *faithful to his calling*. **But** to use our gifts wisely, we need to *know our limitations*.

G. **Slide9b** (21) **4 Qualities:** **Able men** - capable. **Fear God** - realizing what you do is for God. **Trustworthy** - men of truth, *not for money, not to be seen*. **Hate a bribe** - covetousness.

H. **Slide9c** (21) **1000, 100, 50, 10** - Some men are capable of *certain amounts*.

1. **Here a judiciary system is set up**. An **army general** would recognize it as the old military strategy of *divide and conquer*. And **economist** would call it *the division of labor*. The **Bible** calls it *Presbyterianism*/presbyters/**elders** (NT).
 - a) It was a plan for *providing pastoral* care for the people of God.

2. **Today**, we see **Jesus** as our *Moses, Mediator, High Priest, King, Savior, Head of the Church*. Who calls pastors/elders as overseers (to provide biblical instruction & spiritual care). **Then** many gifted *men and women* who *oversee our ministries*. **Then** our small group leaders and facilitators.
- I. (22b) **They will bear the burden with you** - Moses you're not giving up your responsibilities like *praying, teaching, & handling the bigger matters*. **But** others will help you thus, *bearing one another's burdens*.
- J. **Slide9d** (23) **God will direct you** - it's not a magic *formula*, it's simply what Paul says later, *Let all things be done decently and in order*. 1 Cor.14:40
- K. (23) **you will be able to endure** - so you don't *tank, wipe out, or burn out*.
1. **Slide9e** Neil Young famously sang in *Out of the Blue* (my my, hey hey), *"It's better to burn out than it is to rust."* It is often said that we should, *"come apart before we come apart."*
- L. (23b) **peace/shalom** - this will bring blessing among all the people.
- M. **Slide10a** What we see here is *shared ministry*.
1. **Even in the Church today**, 1 person can't do it all. **And** the reminder to all of us, *work smarter not harder*.
2. **Shared ministry** is for the blessing and benefit of everybody.
3. The NT teaches us, **a healthy community practices shared ministry** by a **plurality of qualified elders** who oversee the ministry the church.
- a) **Slide10b** Eph.4:11,12 *nlt Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.*
- N. As Moses looked for **character qualities**, so the NT places the emphasis on the **character** of the elders.
- O. **Slide11** **Senior pastor?** Really **Jesus** carries that title, *Chief Shepherd*.

1. 1 Pet.5 *NLT* 2 **shepherd** the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the **chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
 2. The pastors and elders are **under-shepherds** of *the Chief Shepherd*. I really am *1 of the pastors* of CM. I'm the main teaching pastor. As different pastors/elders we are gifted in different ways, helping to oversee the running of the church.
- P. Our other pastors/leaders aren't *the B-Team!* Whether they are showing up to do a hospital visit or teaching on Wednesday nights. Shame on you if you see it that way.
1. In this last Wed Night series *AL, AP, Jason, & Cam* did so great.
 2. You might think you're complementing me saying, *we only like/come when you teach*. I see that as a complete failure on my part, or *maybe it's an immaturity on yours?*
 3. Yes practically I have taught over 5,000 bible studies, over 3 decades. So yes hopefully *I've learned something* or have *pulpit experience*. *But don't we believe that it's the Holy Spirit teaching us, through the mouthpiece that God has set before us?*
- Q. Structurally/governmentally CM is set up as **The orig Moses Model**, which I inherited from day-1 (1 guy in charge). But from the beginning I purposed to not lead that way. Instead I've tried to practically live out the NT's **Plurality Model**. [Governing board vs. advisory board. *more of a collaboration, us seeking God together*].
1. Having a Plurality of leaders praying & strategizing, builds in a good effective **accountability** where nothing is done in isolation.
 2. It builds in a good **decision making** through prayer & continuity.
 3. Which builds in a more **permanent and longevity** in CM as an organization.
 4. It also helps to avoid a **Rockstar mentality** (1 guy at the top we see in a # of churches). **Because** when the rockstar leaves, the church usually

fails. PS: *Jesus is our Rockstar, we are His groupies* :)

- R. *Slide12 The Trellis and The Vine* (is a book by, *Colin Marshall and Tony Payne*)
1. There has to be a **trellis type structure** to support **the vine**. You can't get away from this. **The trellis** represents *the organizational structures and programs* that exist at our church, to support **the vine work** and its *growth*.
 2. **But** how silly to make it all about **the trellis** that will soon be covered, or to go overboard and make it out of 4x4 posts?. **So** you want just enough **trellis** to support **the vine**, **because** it's all about *vine work*.
 3. **If** the total effort of the church is **the trellis**, **then the vine** will never get **planted**, and thus can't *grow*.
 4. **Myself & our leadership team** will take care of **the trellis**, **so we ALL** can put our efforts into **the vine**. Here in the OT. Also in the NT. *Share in Ministry here at CM.*
- S. **Communion:** *as they came out and joined him* (Jethro) *in a sacrificial meal in God's presence* (12), we come to gather to do the same.
1. Thank you for coming out and joining us at CM this morning, in a sacrificial meal ... **in God's presence**.
- T. **Conclusion:** in order to have *a healthy community* here at CM ...
1. **Let's** fight like **Joshua** and pray like **Moses**.
 2. **Let's** be *good gospel witnesses*, to our **neighbors & our family members**.
 3. **Let's** practice a **Shared Ministry**. Gal.6:2 **Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.**
 4. **Let's** not worry about **a title or a position**, **but** about all of us finding our ministry.
 5. **Let's** build up the body of Christ by *serving, loving, & praying*.

U. The Lord does not forget your work & labor of love, whether it's giving someone a cold cup of water, or a hot cup of coffee.

V. *Ministry Fair in the gym.* Come meet our ministries and get connected.

1. 20 different **ministries** and **opportunities** to get connected here at CM.
2. **Register** for fall sessions. **Learn** about upcoming events. **Discover** areas to volunteer.
3. **Complimentary donuts and coffee.** *just head down the main hall past the restrooms, past front office.

W. *End of 3rd service* chairs stacked please.

X. Keywords: Moses, Jethro, shared ministry, leadership, working smarter, sharing the load, government, character, pastoral care, elders, shepherd, trellis & vine,