

9

Let's Get Organized!

Service
We serve God despite difficulties.

POWER TEXT

"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

KEY REFERENCES

- Exodus 18
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 26, pp. 300, 301
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 146-150
- Student story on page 102 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 12, The Church
- No. 21, Stewardship
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.
- **Feel** God is a God of order.
- **Respond** by choosing to keep learning how best to serve.

POWERPOINT

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Moses is called to serve God by leading the children of Israel. All disputes are referred to Moses, whether large or small. This is placing a great strain on his time and physical resources. When his father-in-law comes to visit, he recognizes the problem and advises Moses to appoint assistants to help him. Moses gladly takes the advice.

This is a lesson about service.

God is a God of order. God sends Jethro to advise Moses that he needs to provide order and structure for the people. In the same way God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way. When we learn to be organized, we can serve God more effectively.

Teacher Enrichment

Jethro is a Midianite (Exodus 2:15, 16; 18:1). The Midianites are descendants of Abraham through his wife Keturah (Genesis 25:1, 2) and are thus related to Israel.

"The Lord had greatly honored Moses, and had wrought wonders by his hand; but the fact that he had been chosen to instruct others did not lead him to conclude that he himself needed no instruction. The chosen leader of Israel listened gladly to the suggestions of the godly priest of Midian, and adopted his plan as a wise arrangement" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 301).

God often makes use of the wisdom, insight, imagination, and common sense of the Jethros of this world to make the divine will known, to be of assistance to the religious community, and in the furtherance of the divine purposes.

Who has God placed in my life to help organize my service? How can I change my approach to ministry in order to be more effective?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Packing*	two suitcases, two of each item to be packed (swimsuit, socks, T-shirt, toothbrush, etc.)
		B. Creation Order	seven slips of paper, seven posterboards, markers
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 97. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, paper, pens/pencils, scissors
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	songbooks
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Making Time*	paper, pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Plans*	paper, pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ two suitcases
- ☐ two of each item to be packed (swimsuit, socks, T-shirt, toothbrush, etc.)

Packing

Have enough items to fill up two suitcases. Divide students into two groups. Select one student from each group who will be the person going on a vacation, and have them leave the room. Then give instructions for the first group to fold and pack things neatly into the suitcase in an organized manner. The second group will toss things into the suitcase in an unorganized manner. Before the groups close the suitcases, hide two items at the bottom of each suitcase. Have the two vacationers come back in the room; hand each one a suitcase and ask them to open it up and find the two items you had previously hidden.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easier to find the two items in the neat suitcase or the messy suitcase? What are the advantages of packing a suitcase neatly?** Say: **Let's repeat the power text:**

"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

This week we are learning that

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ seven slips of paper
- ☐ seven posterboards
- ☐ markers

Creation Order

Divide students into seven groups. Give each one a slip of paper with one day of Creation written on it. Each group should review the order of Creation in Genesis 1 and then draw pictures representing their day on their posterboard. After giving the groups a few minutes to complete the task, have them come back to the circle and share what their group drew. Then ask them to tape their posters to the wall in order.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does this show that God is a God of order? What if God had created trees before the dry land? Or rested before He finished His work? Will someone please say our power text?**

"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Say: **Our power point reminds us that**

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

Prayer & Praise

Notes

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"In His Time" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 93)
"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 85)
"Touching Heaven, Changing Earth" (*Praise Time*, no. 22)
"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 100)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/ basket
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils/pens

Say: **One way we can reflect God's love of order in our lives is by planning our giving. We can plan how much we are going to give each week or month. When we give regularly, we help support God's work. Let's think about what money you have as income and what you would like to give to God each week or month in addition to tithe. Are you willing to make a commitment to give that certain amount each week?** Distribute to each student paper and pencils/pens and ask them to record amounts they are willing or able to give each week, along with a space for the actual amount they bring. Have them take home their records of planned giving and encourage them to be consistent in following their plan to give offerings each Sabbath.

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ pens

Ask the students to draw and cut out an ear. On one side they will write a request and on the other a way they can commit their ears in service to God. Put the ears, commitment side facing out, on the wall along with the crafts they have made over the past weeks. Close with a prayer of commitment to service and pray also for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ songbooks

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask students to pick a song from their songbook. Say: **This morning we're going to sing this song a little differently. I'm sure it will sound just as good doing it in an unorganized way. Don't sing it line for line as written, but rather, sing any line you want in any order. Let's begin** (sing).

Ask: **How did that sound? Was it easier or harder to sing like that? Would the message of the song be as easy to understand to someone who was listening? What's so important about doing something in an organized manner?**

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Select students to pantomime the roles of Moses, Jethro, Zipporah, Moses' two sons, Aaron, people coming to Moses for help, and judges as it is read from Exodus 18 by other students. Have readers lined up on one side of the room and mimers on the other.

Ask: **What were the benefits of Moses' organizing judges to help him in his work? What might have happened if Moses had chosen to continue to do it all by himself? How do you think Moses felt with the extra help and new organization?** Say: **Let's repeat together the power text, 1 Corinthians 14:40:**

"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Let's remember our power point,

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Have students read aloud the organization of welfare work in the early church found in Acts 6:1-7. Ask: **Why was a welfare organization needed? What were the benefits of this orderly way of doing things?**

Say: **The Seventh-day Adventist Church is structured to bring organization to the needs of our members worldwide.** Where all can see, list the five levels of our church organization.

Local church (A group of Seventh-day Adventist believers in a community. There are more than 70,000 Seventh-day Adventist churches around the world.)

Local conference (Churches in a given state, province, territory, or area work together in what is known as a conference. Camp meetings are usually organized by conferences [at least in North America].)

Union conference (The next level of organization. Several conferences working together. Unions often publish a periodical with news and encouragement for the church members in their area.)

World divisions (There are 13 world divisions made up of unions. Divisions organize and oversee the work in a certain part of the world. They provide training and materials in the different languages spoken by the church members within their borders.)

General Conference (Oversees the work of the entire worldwide church, providing support for the divisions. Currently there are more than 17 million Seventh-day Adventists around the world.)

Say: **Let's discuss the structure of our church, putting in the appropriate names for our division, union, conference, etc.** Ask: **How is this like or unlike the way Jethro told Moses to organize the Israelites? How does it feel to be a part of an "organization"? What advantages can you see to having organization?** (You might mention worldwide school system, system for collecting tithes and offerings to be used around the world, system for sending missionaries to places where they are needed.) Say: **We want to remember that**

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Making Time

Have the students make a list of things they do daily such as going to school, feeding the dog, doing dishes, homework, praying, watching TV, etc. Discuss which things are necessary and which things are optional, what they would like to have more time for, and what things they feel they spend too much time on now.

Ask them to find a partner and make a schedule, day by day, for the coming week. Ask them to make sure they have time set aside for all the things they feel are important. When they have finished, ask for volunteers to share any insights they gained from making this schedule.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you learn about your time? How might things be different for you if you follow your schedule this week? How will they stay the same? What happens when we try to do too much on our own or too many things at once? How would being organized help you be able to spend more time with God?** Say: **Let's repeat the power point together:**

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Plans

Ask students to share if they had the opportunity to help someone in need during the past week. Ask: **Did you tell someone what amazing things Jesus has done in your life? What did you do to organize your priorities? What did you gain from being organized?**

Say: **One way of ensuring order is by planning. Let's discuss next week's Sabbath School and plan some of it right now.** Let the students plan and volunteer to participate for as much of it as possible.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you like or dislike about organizing Sabbath School for next week? What would happen if the leader wasn't organized? What will we gain from being organized?**

Say: **Let's say the power text once again, 1 Corinthians 14:40:**

"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

As our power point reminds us:

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **We all need order in our lives. We need order in our country, in our schools, in our homes, and in our individual lives. This order reflects God's order. Let's pray together and ask God to help us be more organized in our lives.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **David wins the victory over Goliath. When we trust God, He gives us the victory.**

Notes

Student lesson

Let's Get Organized!

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by a task facing you? Have you ever felt stressed? God wants to teach us to approach our lives, and our service for Him, in an organized way that will help relieve stress. He will teach us how to do that, just as He did with Moses.

Jethro looked out of his tent at his daughter Zipporah, who was talking with her two sons, Gershom and Eliezer. He thought about the day his son-in-law Moses, Zipporah, and the two boys had set off for Egypt. God had spoken to Moses in a burning bush and sent him to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt that they might return to Canaan, their homeland. Moses wasn't confident in his own abilities to lead the people of Israel. Yet he accepted the call and decided to trust in God's leading. So the family set out together for Egypt.

On the way, Moses had been worried about what might be ahead for Zipporah and the two boys in Egypt. So they had come back to Grandpa Jethro. Here they were living the life they were used to, but without their father, Moses.

Now Jethro had news of Moses. He called out to Zipporah and his grandsons. "Come," he said. "I have news for you." Jethro told them what he had heard about the Red Sea, the water from a rock, the manna—all the things that God was doing for Moses' people, who were now safely out of Egypt. "Shall we go to him?" Jethro asked them. He needn't have bothered; they were already starting to pack.

Jethro sent word to Moses that they were coming. Moses met his father-in-law, wife, and sons at the edge of the camp and led them to his quarters. There was so much to talk about, so many stories to tell about the bad times and the good times, but most of all, about God's guidance. Jethro praised God. He led in a sacrifice to God. Aaron and the other elders joined him.

The next day Jethro watched the people flock around Moses. Moses sat in a seat outside his tent, and all the people came with their complaints and troubles. Big troubles, little troubles, they all brought them to Moses. Jethro just watched.

But that night he asked Moses, "What are you doing? Why do you sit there as the only judge for these thousands and thousands of people? You are going to wear yourself out and be unable to lead the people all the way to their promised land."

"Well," Moses replied, "they all look to me as having the word of God. They have seen the way God sends messages to them through me. After I offer solutions to their problems, I teach them God's ways."

"The work is too heavy for you," Jethro said to Moses, "you cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you.

"You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves.

"That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied" (Exodus 18:18-23).

Moses listened carefully. The very next day he started choosing men. He made them officials over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they took care of themselves.

By the time Moses said goodbye to his father-in-law, who was headed back to his home in Midian, the camp of Israel was a much more organized place. In the meantime Moses had more time for his two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, and for his beloved wife, Zipporah. It was obvious that God was a God of order who was willing to teach His children how best to serve Him. God always provided what was needed.

KEY REFERENCES

- Exodus 18
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 26, pp. 300, 301
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 146-150
- Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 21, 22

POWER TEXT

"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

POWER POINT

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read Exodus 18:1-8 and this week's story, "Let's Get Organized!"

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

THINK How did Jethro's suggestion help Moses, who was trying to do all the judging himself?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to show you how to be more organized.

Monday

READ Read Exodus 18:9-12.

THINK What helped Jethro recognize that the God of Israel was the only true God? What personal experiences with God can you share with others that could help them acknowledge that He is the true God?

SHARE Help someone who is in need today. If you have the opportunity, tell someone what amazing things Jesus has done in your life.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to bless the people working in church.

Tuesday

READ Read Exodus 18:13-16.

DEFINE How could Moses be both a leader and a servant? Define both his roles.

INVESTIGATE Ask an adult about who are the people responsible for the various ministries at your local church.

DRAW Diagram what you discover about your church's organization.

REVIEW Repeat the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you organize your schedule to include time for Him.

Wednesday

READ Read Exodus 18:17-23.

ASK Contact a church leader and find out how church leaders are chosen at your church. What leaders are on the church board?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for the work of committees in your church.

Thursday

READ Read Exodus 18:24-27 and Titus 1:6-9.

LIST List the characteristics of the judges and of the elders. How are the lists similar and different?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for God's blessing on the elders and church leaders.

Friday

READ Read 1 Peter 5:1-6.

THINK What are God's instructions to the elders? What can I learn from these instructions?

PLAN Finish your chores and be ready for Sabbath.

TALK Talk with your family about experiences when things went wrong because someone or the family was not organized. What happened? Then share experiences when things went well because someone or the entire family was organized.

REPEAT Repeat the power text aloud by memory.

PRAY Thank God that He is willing to teach you. Ask Him to help you be willing to learn.