9

Let's Get Organized!

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.















Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

powertext

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

powerPoint

God teaches us to serve Him in an organized way.

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.

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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.

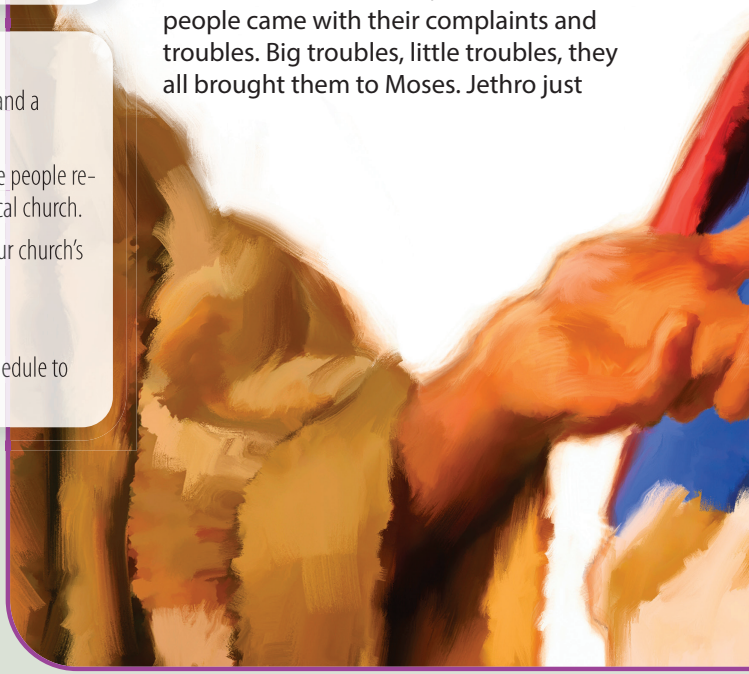
REVIEW Repeat the power text.

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

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



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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.

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.



PUZZLE 9

GET ORGANIZED

Instructions: Most of the words in this puzzle are found in Exodus 18. The two columns titled "In" and "Not In" contain words from this week's lesson. When you have discovered the letter that is in the "In" column word, but not in the "Not In" column word, place it in the third column titled "Letter." When you have found the 19 letters, they will form the three-word answer to this week's puzzle. We have given you the first letter of each of the answer words to help you get started.

In	Not In	Letter
1. ISRAEL	1. FATHER-IN-LAW	S
2. DONE	2. AROUND	
3. FOR	3. OFFICIALS	
4. SAVED	4. SATISFIED	
5. GENTLE	5. ARROGANTLY	
6. GAIN	6. APPOINT	G
7. NOW	7. WHENEVER	
8. DOING	8. MORNING	
9. ONE	9. SON	E
10. WIFE	10. WISE	
11. OFFER	11. JETHRO	
12. CAME	12. CAMPING	
13. TEACH	13. FATHER	
14. STAND	14. ANSWERED	
15. THIS	15. THOUSANDS	
16. VERY	16. READY	
17. SENT	17. STANDARDS	
18. TOLD	18. STOOD	
19. THEY	19. TOGETHER	

Puzzle Clue: Being organized helps us to
S_ _ _ _ G_ _ E_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.