

JETHRO ADVISES MOSES

Exodus 18:1-27

Exodus 18

¹Now Jethro, the priest of Midian and father-in-law of Moses, heard of everything God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, and how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

²After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro received her ³and her two sons. One son was named Gershom, for Moses said, “I have become an alien in a foreign land”; ⁴and the other was named Eliezer, for he said, “My father’s God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh.”

⁵Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, together with Moses’ sons and wife, came to him in the desert, where he was camped near the mountain of God. ⁶Jethro had sent word to him, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons.”

⁷So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. ⁸Moses told his father-in-law about everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel’s sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the LORD had saved them.

⁹Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians.

¹⁰He said, “Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly.”

¹²Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses’ father-in-law in the presence of God.

¹³The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. ¹⁴When his father-in-

law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?”

¹⁵Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will. ¹⁶Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and laws.”

¹⁷Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. ¹⁹Listen 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. ²⁰Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. ²¹But 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. ²²Have 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. ²³If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.”

²⁴Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. ²⁵He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. ²⁶They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

²⁷Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Why were the people standing around Moses from morning until evening? (Verse 13)
5		2.) What did Jethro advise Moses to do?
5		3.) After listening to Jethro, what did Moses do?
5		4.) Why do you think Moses did what Jethro advised him to do?

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 12:15</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: PUZZLES

Students will make puzzles to remind them of how Jethro gave Moses some good advice.

MATERIALS

1. 67 Lb. White Cardstock
2. Puzzle Pattern
3. Scissors
4. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
5. Paper clips or plastic bags



DIRECTIONS

1. Make copies of the puzzle pattern onto 67 lb. cardstock for each student.
2. Have students color the puzzle with crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
3. Instruct students to cut on the solid black lines.
4. Optional: If students finish early, have them race one another putting the puzzles together.
5. Clip puzzle pieces together with a paper clip or place puzzle pieces in a plastic bag for storage.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are coloring their puzzles, remind them how Jethro gave Moses good advice. Moses could not continue to meet the needs of the Israelites on his own. Jethro advised Moses to select capable men to be appointed as officials to lighten Moses' load. Moses took Jethro's wise advice, as our memory verse states.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

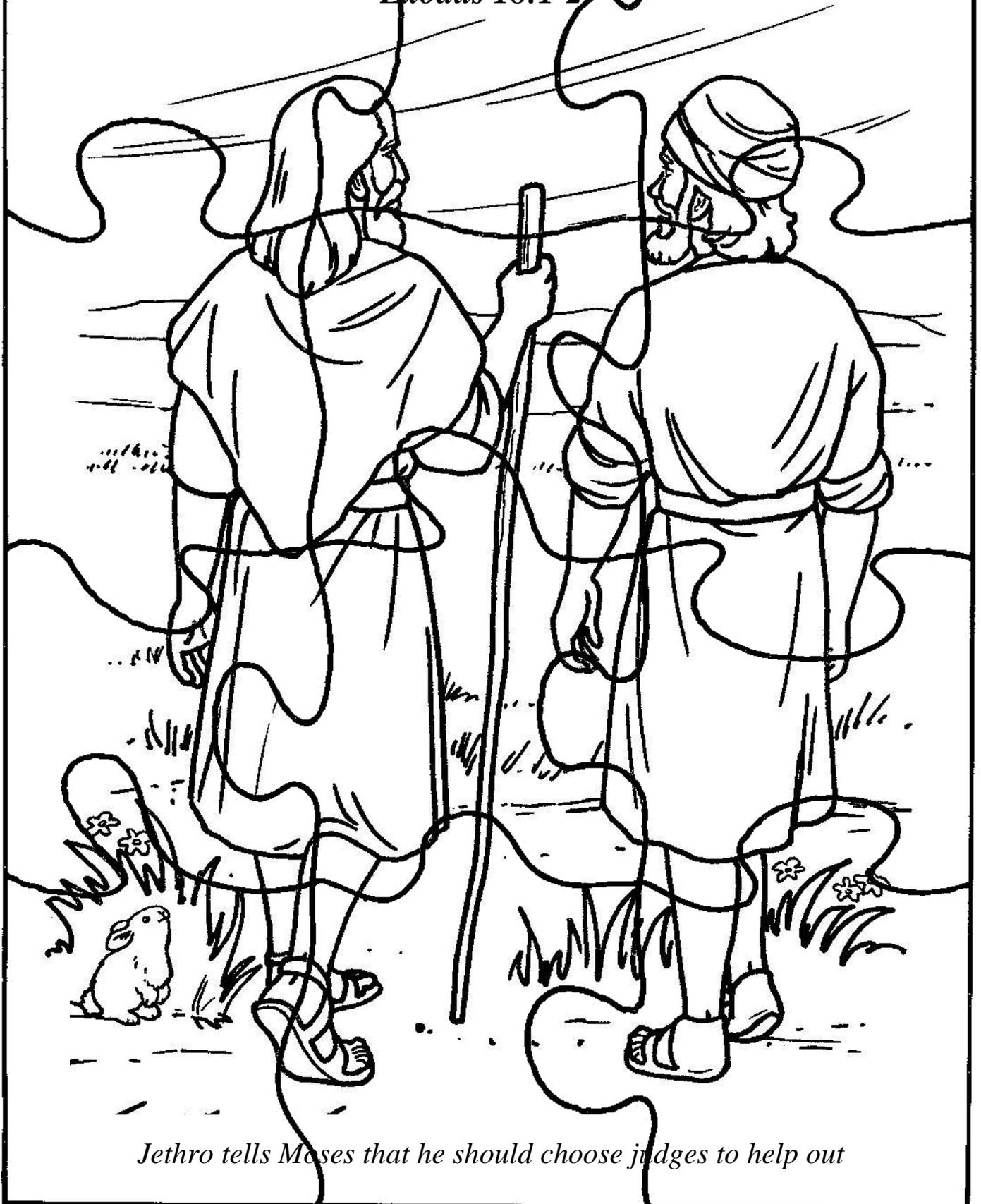
Approximately 20 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

“The way of the fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.” Proverbs 12:15

JETHRO ADVISES MOSES

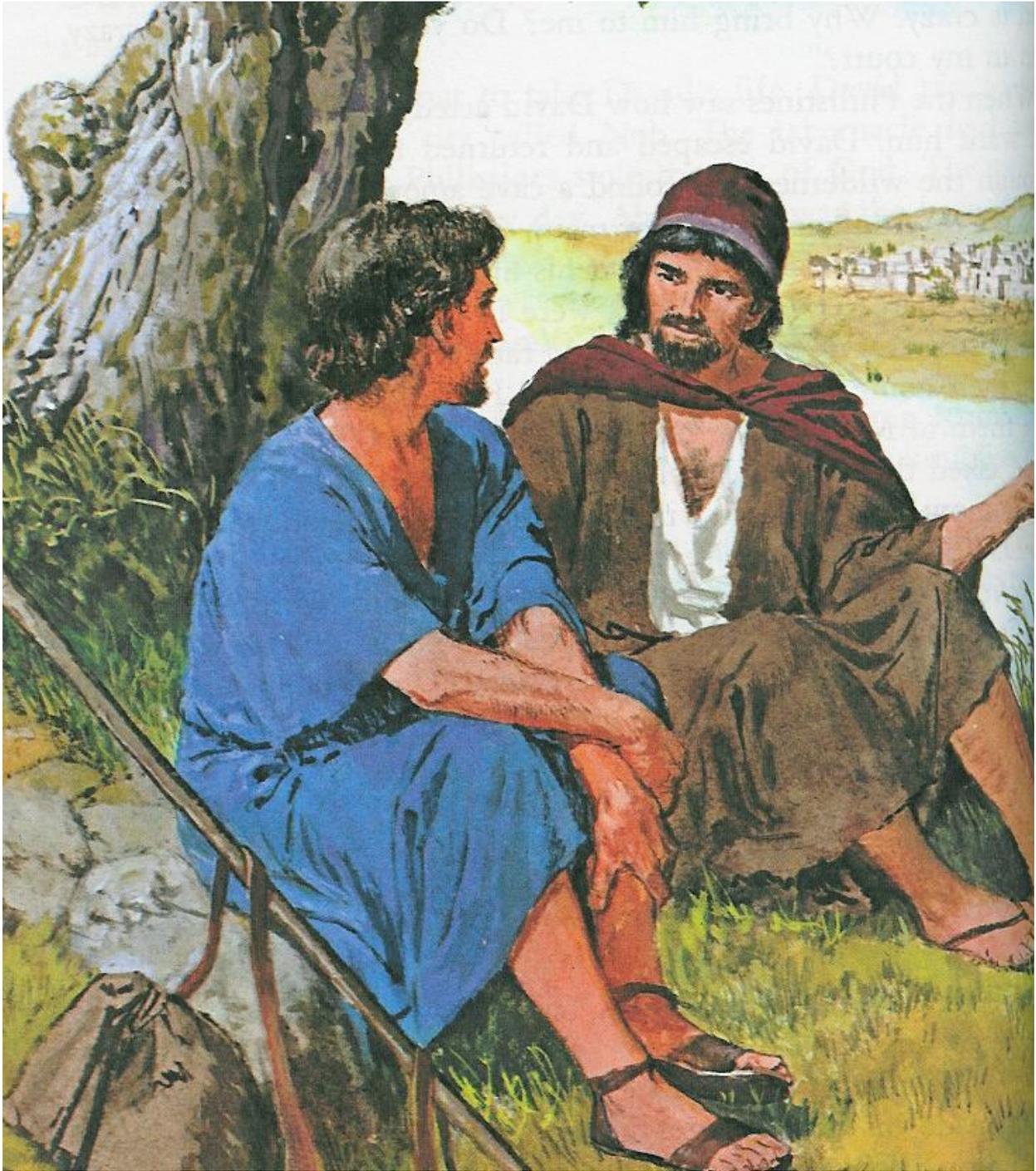
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Jethro tells Moses that he should choose judges to help out

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Jethro tells Moses that he should choose judges to help out

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Today's bible story was about _____

I learned that I should

The memory verse means



Memory Verse:

"The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice."

Proverbs 12:15

THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON EXODUS 18:1-27

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Moses had a father-in-law named Jethro. Jethro had heard of all that the Lord was doing for Moses and the Israelites.

One day, Moses was

serving as judge for the people of Israel. If the people had a problem, and could not solve it, they came to Moses for help. The people stood around from morning until evening. They were waiting for Moses to help them. Moses decided who was wrong and who was right.

Jethro watched as Moses helped all his people. Jethro said to Moses, "This is not good. You will wear yourself out doing this. You should choose other leaders who can serve as judges. Then, if there is something that they cannot handle, they can come to you. That way, you can be the people's representative before God."

Moses took Jethro's advice and chose many leaders who could serve as judges. But Moses still helped when a big problem came to his attention.

For more on this story, read Exodus 18:1-27 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Jethro?
2. Why were the people standing around from morning until evening?
3. What did Jethro tell Moses he should do?
4. Why do you think Moses did what Jethro advised him to do?

MEMORY VERSE

"The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice."

Proverbs 12:15

WORD SEARCH

S V H W Q O R S M P
T E T D R Z Q R O K
P P T H A V W E S J
H R T I Q M V D E Q
F E L G L J C A S A
J J U D G E S E F R
D J J X M F A L E S
P P H Q E G L R E V
J T M S U Q U G S E
U N K S M P Z Y B I

ISRAELITES
JETHRO
JUDGES
LEADERS
MOSES