

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 19, 2023

Theme: Servant Leadership

Topic: Leaders Transform Lives

Main Text: Exodus 18:13-26

Key verse: Exodus 18:20 – “*And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.*” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Since the beginning of this quarter’s series, we have been discussing the subject of servant leadership. Central to this theme is that we would, as leaders, understand God’s perspective of leadership – which is, leading by being a servant. This servant leadership requires that we lift God high in all we do. Our passage today focuses on the visit of Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law. Moses had earlier sent his wife Zipporah, and two sons Gershom and Eliezer, to Jethro. This visit was a consequence of an information received by Jethro that God had visited Moses and the children of Israel who were now camped in the wilderness after their divine escape from Egypt. While visiting with Moses and the children of Israel in their desert camp, Jethro observed Moses at work, attending to the needs of the people, morning till evening.

1. **(a) Let participants identify the various reasons for which the people came to Moses (see Exodus 18:15-16). (b) What are other reasons why everyone goes to the leader for everything? (c) What would be the likely short and long-term impact on Moses, his family, and the larger society if Moses had continued in his approach to leadership?**

When the Israelites left Egypt, there were six hundred thousand men (Exodus 12:37)—excluding women and children! Even a large church of a thousand worshippers will find it difficult running smoothly with one of the pastoral staff. So, imagine what Moses was dealing with, people coming to him for a mix of reasons. Jethro had the opportunity to observe Moses at work and saw that Moses’ approach in serving the people was not the best. It was not only tiresome to Moses himself as the judge but the people who thronged around him seeking justice and solutions to their problems will also be tired out queueing all day. Being a leader himself, Jethro helped Moses to become a better leader – he offered what we would call a “godly counsel”. Hear him “*What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone* (Exodus 18:17 & 18). Jethro’s counsel is in line with the approach our Lord Jesus Christ prescribed for the great commission, when He commanded, “*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations ... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you...*” (Matthew 28:19-20 NLT)

2. **Read Exodus 18:18-26; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2 (a). Every good leadership should transform lives. From these passages, in what ways does leadership transform lives? (b) What transformation do you think Jethro’s suggestion brought to the people? (c) In what practical ways can we demonstrate this realization that our leadership should transform lives?**

The assignment at hand was not a mean one – Moses was judging a whole nation. If this role was performed shabbily, it would have very serious consequences for the entire nation, and for successive generation of Israelites. Therefore, Jethro’s, criteria is, ‘*Teach them God’s decrees, and give them His instructions. Show them how to conduct their lives. But select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes. Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten... They will help you carry the load, making the task easier for you. If you follow this advice, and if God commands you to do so, then you will be able to endure the pressures, and all these people will go home in peace*’ (Exodus 18:20-23, see also 2 Tim. 2:2). It is instructive to note Jethro’s rider, ‘*... if God commands you to do so...*’ Leadership which transforms must take its cue from God and aligned to God’s purposes.

3. **(a) In Exodus 18:23, Jethro said to Moses, “if you do this and God so commands...” What do you understand by this and what relevance does it have in transformative leadership? (b) Read Exodus 18:20-21. What is the focus of this transformational leadership, and why do you think this focus is important to God’s people (c) How can we apply this meaning in our roles as leaders?**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to understand the purpose for which You have made me a leader. May my leadership style positively impact and transform the lives of those I am privileged to lead, in Jesus’ name.