

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Feb 2, 2020

Team Ministry: Wearing Yourself Out

Pastor Temple 8am & 10:30 Festival, Pastor Johnson 9:15 & 10:30 Fam Life

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on "Just Do It"?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- What do you find most commonly keeps people from asking for help or sharing tasks with others in a project?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Exodus 18:13-24. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

13 The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. 14 When 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?" 15 Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. 16 Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions." 17 Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. 18 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.

19 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. 20 Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. 21 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. 22 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. 23 If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Today's scripture passage took place after God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt through his servant Moses and the people were still in the wilderness. What kind of disputes do you think arose with so many people journeying through the wilderness together (vs 13)?
- What was Moses' initial approach in dealing with them (vs 14-16)?
- What was the effect it was having on Moses and his family? Why could Moses' father-in-law, a Midianite, see it where Moses could not (vs 17-18)?
- Why do you think Moses had sent his family away earlier in the chapter (18:2-5)?
- What kind of positive outcomes are made possible when team work and delegation are introduced to leaders operating in isolation and at the top limit of their personal capacity (verse 21-23)?
- At a personal level?
- At a systems level?
- What are the upfront costs of change and involving others?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud, Mark 6:34-44. What was the problem and what did Jesus ask the people to do?
- How does Jesus identify himself with Moses in this passage and teach the principle of teamwork?
- What do you think would have happened if they had refused to follow his instructions?
- How is the power of teamwork magnified when God is at the center of it?
- How is the ending of this event, similar to the ending of the previous passage (Exodus 18:)?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- Can you identify with Moses in trying to go it alone sometimes in service? How so?
- Ephesians 4:7-8 says "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: 'When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to [them].'" What do you think gets in the way of people getting more involved in the body of Christ and using their gifts for ministry?
- Do you know what your spiritual gifts for ministry are? What are they? FYI- a way to learn more about this will be available in the upcoming months
- Kim Ripley is the Director of Involvement at Christ Church and would love to hear from you if you would like to be more involved in ministry! You can email Kim at kimr@christchurchsl.org or talk with one of the pastors.

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- What persons do you know who have underutilized gifts for ministry? What kind of invitations could you offer them to help them get connected to a ministry?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer