

## Life Group Homework

For the week of Oct 2, 2016

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### QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

### MY STORY

2. Did you experience any instances with people attacking you in the past week? If you did, did you apply any of the tools from last week's study? What were they? If you did not experience feeling attacked in the past week, how could the tools that we discussed inform your response? If there anything that you would do differently?
3. What was your takeaway from last week's life group?

### DIGGING DEEPER

#### *Exodus 18:13-26 (NLT)*

<sup>13</sup> The next day, Moses took his seat to hear the people's disputes against each other. They waited before him from morning till evening.

<sup>14</sup> When Moses' father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he asked, "What are you really accomplishing here? Why are you trying to do all this alone while everyone stands around you from morning till evening?"

<sup>15</sup> Moses replied, "Because the people come to me to get a ruling from God.

<sup>16</sup> When a dispute arises, they come to me, and I am the one who settles the case between the quarreling parties. I inform the people of God's decrees and give them his instructions."

<sup>17</sup> "This is not good!" Moses' father-in-law exclaimed. <sup>18</sup> "You're going to wear yourself out—and the people, too. This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself. <sup>19</sup> Now listen to me, and let me give you a word of advice, and may God be with you. You should continue to be the people's representative before God, bringing their disputes to him. <sup>20</sup> Teach them God's decrees, and give them his instructions. Show them how to conduct their lives. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> They should always be available to solve the people's common disputes, but have them bring the major cases to you. Let the leaders decide the smaller matters themselves. They will help you carry the load, making the task easier for you. <sup>23</sup> 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."

<sup>24</sup> Moses listened to his father-in-law's advice and followed his suggestions.

<sup>25</sup> He chose capable men from all over Israel and appointed them as leaders over the people. He put them in charge of groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten. <sup>26</sup> These men were always available to solve the people's common disputes. They brought the major cases to Moses, but they took care of the smaller matters themselves.

4. What were the key elements of Jethro's plan to help Moses?
5. Why do you think that Jethro's plan would be appealing to both Moses and the Israelites?
6. Who was impacted the most by Moses' decision to share the burden of judging duties with other leaders? Why were they impacted the most?

#### *Acts 2:36-47 (NLT)*

<sup>36</sup> "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" <sup>37</sup> Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away all who have been called by the Lord our God." <sup>40</sup> Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

<sup>41</sup> Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. <sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

7. With the sudden explosion of growth in the early church, what did the church need to succeed?

#### *Acts 5:42-6:7 (NLT)*

<sup>42</sup> And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah." But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

<sup>2</sup> So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program.

<sup>3</sup> And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. <sup>4</sup> Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

<sup>5</sup> Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). <sup>6</sup> These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

8. What are some of the ways the early church needed people to step up and serve?
9. Why was there grumbling going on among the people?
10. How did the apostles address the grumbling?

### TAKING IT HOME

11. Where could you join the mission to serve the body of Christ? Is God calling you to serve in the body of Christ?
12. How much time can you give to serve; 30 minutes, an hour, 2 hours?
13. If you are not currently serving, what steps can you take to begin?

### CHAIR TIME TOOLS

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–26 (NLT) One Body with Many Parts*

14. How does this passage speak to you personally? How does it inform your role in the church?

### *Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NLT)*

<sup>9</sup>Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. <sup>10</sup>If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. <sup>11</sup>Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? <sup>12</sup>A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

15. Considering this passage from Ecclesiastes, how can God use others in your life to encourage you?

## Exodus: Journey of Revelation “Willing Servants”

Pastor Craig Sweeney

October 2, 2016

**Text:** Exodus 18:1-27, Acts 2:42-47, Acts 6:1-7, Ephesians 4:11-16

**Revelation:** We're no longer slaves...we're willing servants.

- I. God's story draws people.
- II. This is God's baby!
  - A. "Serve them (our employers) sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." Col. 3:22–24
    1. How do I point to Jesus on the job? Start with our work ethic.
      - a) Cooperative - With the leadership...we want the same thing...see the baby successful.
      - b) Capable - Skilled and growing in abilities, valuable.
      - c) Responsible - To follow through on given responsibilities.
      - d) Dependable - Time tells the story.
      - e) Servant - To others.
      - f) Better - Make IT better.
    - B. If I bring this to the workplace, how much more the mission of God?
  - III. Why should I step into the story?
  - IV. Thank you!
  - V. What now?
    - A. Choose a place to serve in the church...to make it better!
    - B. Choose a place to serve outside the church on SERVE DAY...to make our community better!