

EXODUS FOR KIDS

Wouldn't it be cool to be really important? Can you imagine if you were so important that all your friends at school (and even your teachers) needed you to help them make their everyday life decisions. If this were so, everyone would say, "You are so smart and awesome, I can't imagine where I would be without you!" How good would it feel to hear those words every day, and to know that the whole world was counting on you because you were the most important person?



Well in Exodus 18, Moses become such a person. He had become so important that everyone in Israel was counting on him, and if he took a day off the whole world would stop spinning (or at least he thought so). Here is what Exodus 18:3 says, **"THE NEXT DAY MOSES SAT TO JUDGE THE PEOPLE, AND THE PEOPLE STOOD AROUND MOSES FROM MORNING TILL EVENING."**

Moses is really big and important before all the people, and so all the people gathered around him all day long so he could instruct them about life. So here is a question, do you think Moses being really big and important was a good thing or bad thing? In this chapter, Moses' father-in-law saw how big Moses had become, and he tells Moses this is a bad thing for both him and all the people.

Here is what Jethro says, **"WHAT IS THIS THAT YOU ARE DOING FOR THE PEOPLE? WHY DO YOU SIT ALONE, AND ALL THE PEOPLE STAND AROUND YOU FROM MORNING TILL EVENING? "...WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS NOT GOOD. YOU AND THE PEOPLE WITH YOU WILL CERTAINLY WEAR YOURSELVES OUT, FOR THE THING IS TOO HEAVY FOR YOU. YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO DO IT ALONE."** (14-18).

Here is what Jethro knew; the bigger Moses became before the people, the worse off the people would be. Why is that, you might wonder. It's because the more all the people relied on Moses for everything, the more Moses would let them down because he was not able to help all the people.

So if Moses couldn't help all the people, then who could? The answer is God! God is the only being who can really provide for all the needs of everyone. So here is the big lesson from Exodus 18; it's really good for God to be BIG and important, but it's not so good when we become too BIG and too important.

So what should Moses do? Well, Jethro tells him that Moses needed to become smaller and train others to help him share the load of leading all the people. This way Moses and all the others leaders remain small, and God is the only one who remains big and really, really important. So here's the point; don't try to work too hard at become the one person that everyone depends on. Instead, make sure those around you know that God is the only person all of us must completely depend on! So be small, and let God be really, really big!