



Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work
so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource
and how to use it as a launch pad for your
engagement with children and families, please
use this link: www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet

Title: Exodus 18: 17–24

Theme: Whose wisdom do you listen to and why?

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Welcome to the final session on the theme 'Wise Words'. In this session we will be exploring wise words we hear from others, looking at the story of Moses and Jethro in Exodus 18.

We will explore who it is we listen to – and why. How do we discern if someone is wise, and worth paying attention to? We can get advice from many places nowadays – social media is full of people offering their take on situations and making suggestions for how we should live our lives. Is it always good advice?

Advice is not an order – we have the agency to decide whether or not to follow advice we have been given. Sometimes different people can give us different advice – what might make us choose to follow someone's advice?

Moses chose to follow Jethro's advice – possibly because Jethro had experience of the situation Moses was facing. Does this mean his advice was worth more? Moses also knew that Jethro knew him well and was concerned about him – does a personal connection make us more, or less, likely to listen to someone?

Together – prayer and games

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

**Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,
adventuring together with you wherever we may go.**

Amen

Active game – Jethro says

This game is similar to the game 'Simon says' in that one person gives instructions and the rest of the group has to copy them. In this game, rather than Simon, it'll be 'Jethro says'. The instructions need to start with Jethro says – but while they are giving instructions a small group of others shout out words to try to distract them with the aim that they make mistakes. If you have a small group, the leaders could be the distracting ones, or one person could take on that role moving around the group.

Quieter game – Build a Lego castle

Two people will be giving instructions as to how to build a house. One person will be giving good instructions while the other will be giving "not-so-good instructions"; however,

the person building the house will not know which one is giving good instructions. They must decide which instruction sounds wise and follow those instructions.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

For this story we recommend using the Contemporary English Version

<https://bit.ly/ExoduS18>

Where can I find the story online?

Under-fives: Moses and Jethro by Letzpraise Kids TV

<https://youtu.be/VrJ34T8zw9s?si=iDwBJlhiyD4WUXv>

Five-to-elevens: Wisdom by PursueGOD Kids

<https://youtu.be/JCK1YMZkPhk?si=yC5sK8hEkeUCsUEG>

Songs to support the story

Under-fives: Obey by Unida Christian Church Caridad

<https://youtu.be/6pN4KYrgrWw?si=i9bJLBtjEDxFNZOW>

Five-to-elevens: I will trust you God by Allstar Kids Club

https://youtu.be/bb3PuNF6BN8?si=_WotYTvo3ojS31C6

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

Have some fun together joining in with some short 'minute to win it' games as you explore who we listen to and why.

Explain that the passage tells us about Moses, who takes the advice offered to him by his father-in-law, Jethro. Jethro watched Moses and could see how he could do things better. That is exactly what we will see in this activity. Those present will be able to offer advice while someone is attempting the challenges, but whose advice will they follow and why?

Explain that you have provided six activities and the challenge is that the children must do each activity, working as a group. They will only have around a minute to complete each challenge but can try more than once. This will allow time for each person to give advice on how they think the challenge could be won. During each activity just one person will attempt to do it with the others giving them advice. Remind the players that it's just for fun.

Here are six 'minute to win it' challenges but you may know of others, make sure that there is variety in the challenges to allow everyone to work to their strengths.

Sticky Marbles/ping pong – a game of skill and patience

What you'll need: Marbles/ping pong, double-sided tape.

Players are given several marbles/ping pong balls and a strip of double-sided tape is put at the end of a table. The child must roll the marbles/ping pong balls so that they stop and stick on the tape.

Trembling Towers – a game for a steady hand

What you'll need: Paper plates, plastic cups.

Players alternate stacking paper plates and plastic cups to create the tallest tower possible within a minute. If the tower collapses, they have to start again!

Keep It Up – a game for those with good breath control

What you'll need: Feathers/balloon.

Players must keep a feather/balloon in the air by blowing on it. The goal is to move the feather/balloon from one end of the room to the other without letting it touch the ground.

No Hands – a game for those with good fine motor skills

What you'll need: Wrapped sweets or a present, oven gloves.

Players must unwrap a sweet or present while wearing a pair of oven gloves. It's harder than it looks.

Post It Face – a game in two halves for someone with good balance

What you'll need: Post-It notes.

Players must stick as many Post-It notes to their face as possible within one minute. Part two is to shake their head to shake them all off in a minute

Count me in – a game for someone good with numbers

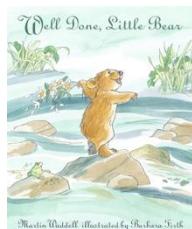
What you'll need: M&Ms and bowls marked with numbers.

Line up the bowls marked with different numbers (not in numerical order), with an empty bowl at the end. You need at least 15 bowls. The child must put the right amount of M&Ms in each bowl (using a spoon) and then in the final bowl put the amount of all the bowls added up.

After the games have a chat about how it went. Who found their challenge easy/hard? Did it help having others giving them advice? What made them listen to certain people? Was it easier to do a task or to offer advice when observing a task? Use the wondering questions to explore the passage and theme further.

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



Well Done, Little Bear by Martin Waddell. (2005: Walker Books)
<https://youtu.be/cjzZOrq0?si=CCnKaEsAB8CrbXTD>

Little Bear wants to go exploring. Big Bear looks on, giving encouragement and help. In our Bible story God is there to help us and give us good advice and encouragement.

- Who gives you encouragement?

Talking together: How might we talk about the Bible story together?

- Do you think Moses enjoyed being the only person who made judgements?
- I wonder if there was another way to solve the issue Moses faced.
- Who do you listen to and why?
- Where did Jethro get his advice from?

Wondering reflection on the theme

- I wonder why Moses listened to Jethro.
- I wonder if Moses would have listened to his mother-in-law.
- I wonder who we listen to.
- Do you have to trust somebody to listen to their advice?

What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing, “What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag” (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

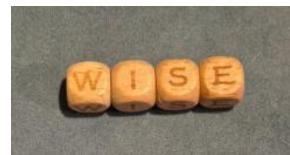
- Big ears – show the children the big ears and ask them if they help them to listen carefully or hear what is being said better.
- Earmuffs – I wonder if we can listen well to people if we have earmuffs on. Can you hear what I am saying?
- Record voice – have someone record some good advice or “If you eat your carrots, it'll help you to see in the dark”; “Look both ways when you are crossing the road”.
- Toy with no instructions (Jacob's ladder) – can you work out how to play with this? Do you need help from someone who has played with it.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)
- A set of play people to act out the story, or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Prayerful activity – Words

Using magnetic letters, Scrabble letters or pen and paper write an acrostic prayer. Use the words 'wise words' written vertically in the margin, then write words or your chosen phrase, using the letters to begin each line.



Spoken prayer

Under-fives

Dear God,
Thank you for the people who help me and teach me.
Please help me listen to wise voices,
so I can learn and grow.
Amen.

5-14s

Wise God,
thank you for the people you've placed around us –
our parents, teachers, helpers, and leaders, our wise friends.
Thank you that they care for us
and want to guide us in good ways.

Please help us listen well to wise advice,
just like Moses listened to Jethro.
When we're unsure what to do,
help us stop, think, and ask for help.
Give us open hearts, curious minds,
and the courage to follow good guidance.

Teach us to make choices that honour you
and bring kindness, fairness, and peace.
Amen.

Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage the children to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Biscuit advice

You will need:

- digestive biscuits
- icing sugar and writing icing

What you do:



Make up some icing to spread on the digestive. Decorate your biscuit using writing icing with either a heart or a word and give to someone who gives good advice.

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you something you might not already know about Jesus.
- Spend some time completing some mazes. Either use websites online or paper copies if you have access to them. <https://toytheater.com/maze/>

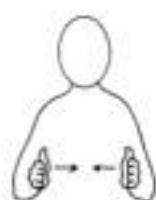
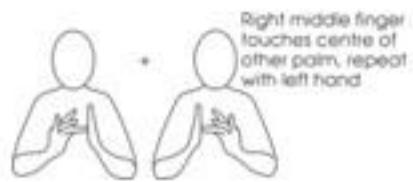
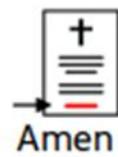
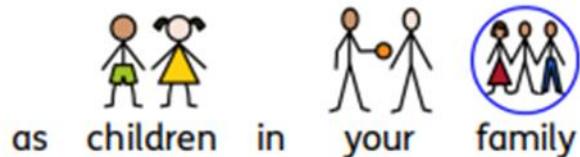
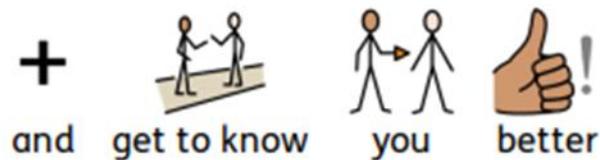
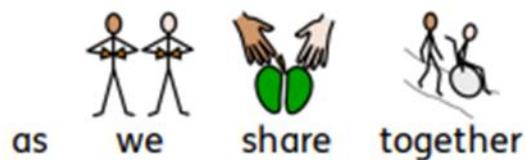
We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of the **Moses and Jethro** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group bit.ly/FACT_FB

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Festivals**.








The Lord's Prayer




Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.





Thy kingdom come, thy will be done






on earth as it is in heaven.



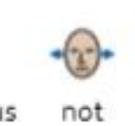



Give us this day our daily bread






and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us



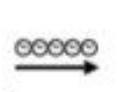
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil







For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory






For ever and ever. Amen



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