



Use Week of: _____

Unit 5 • Session 2

Jethro Helped Moses

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 18

STORY POINT: God is good.

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 22:37a

CHRIST CONNECTION: God gives Jesus' followers friends of faith to help us.

Bible Story for Toddlers

Moses was married. His wife's father, Jethro, had heard about all the wonderful things God did for the Israelites. Jethro brought Moses' family to a mountain, where Moses and the people were camping. From morning to evening, Moses stood at the tabernacle and helped people. Jethro was surprised! Jethro said, "What you are doing is not good. You need helpers. Tell people about God's words, but choose helpers who love God and tell the truth to help the people with everyday problems. That way, you and the people will be happy." Moses listened to Jethro, and his helpers took care of normal problems. Every hard decision came to Moses, who brought it to God.

Babies Gospel Gems

- * Jethro came to see Moses.
- * Moses needed help to lead God's people.
- * Moses chose helpers who loved God.

Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

BABIES Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Exodus 18. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY: GOD IS GOOD. Moses needed help to lead God's people. Moses chose helpers who loved God. [*Pray.*]

Sing a Bible story song

Sing the chorus of "God Is So Good." Look up the song online if you are unfamiliar with the tune or lyrics.

"God *is so good. God is so good. God is so good.
He's so good to me."

*Substitute *cares for me, sent His Son, and loves me so* in other rounds.

SAY: GOD IS GOOD. God gives Jesus' followers friends of faith to help us.

Trace helping hands

Trace each baby's hands with a pencil onto colorful paper. Provide stickers for babies to decorate their hand outlines. Write the Christ Connection or Story Point on each child's paper.

SAY: Jethro came to see Moses. Moses needed help to lead God's people. God gave him helpers because **GOD IS GOOD.**

Explore a sensory basket

Place items that represent God's blessings in a basket, such as toy food, people figures, blankets or clothing, the Bible, and other items. Encourage babies to explore the items. Be mindful of any small parts or choking hazards.

SAY: Jethro came to see Moses because Jethro heard how God had blessed His people. God had done so many good things for them because **GOD IS GOOD.** He gives many gifts, like the ones in this basket. God gives Jesus' followers friends of faith to help us.

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

TODDLER Activities

Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to Exodus 18. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the Gospel Gems and Story Point. Pray for the toddlers.

Make helper art

Print and cut out several copies of the “Helper Cards” printable. Toddlers will glue the pictures to construction paper. Write the Story Point or Christ Connection on each. Ask toddlers to point to people who are helpers.

SAY: Moses needed help to lead God’s people. **GOD IS GOOD.** God gives Jesus’ followers friends of faith to help us.

Search for helpers

Post an allergy alert. Provide painting smocks and a tablecloth. Hide helper figures (parents, firefighter, dentist, doctor, nurse, police officer, soldier, or teacher) in a bin with non-menthol shaving foam. Invite toddlers to find the people. Keep wipes handy for cleanup. Briefly review the Bible story.

SAY: Jethro came to see Moses, and Jethro helped Moses. **GOD IS GOOD** to give us families, friends, and helpers!

Practice the key passage

Print an extra key passage card and cut it into a heart shape. Invite toddlers to sit with you in a circle. Pass the key passage card as you play music. Stop the music and invite toddlers to say the key passage with you. Repeat as time allows.

SAY: GOD IS GOOD. Moses chose helpers who loved God. The Bible says to love the Lord our God!

Play out the story

Provide Bible times dress-up clothes (pillowcases and elastic bands for headdresses) for toddlers to play out the story. Pretend to be Moses. Ask another adult to pretend to be Jethro. Briefly retell the Bible story.

SAY: Moses needed help to lead God’s people. **GOD IS GOOD!** God gave him helpers! God gives Jesus’ followers friends of faith to help us too.

BONUS Teaching Hour

SESSION TITLE: Jethro Helped Moses

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 18

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 22:37a

STORY POINT: God is good.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God gives Jesus' followers friends of faith to help us.

Transition activity: Work puzzles

Provide various wooden puzzles that feature people, helpers, or church scenes. You may also make a puzzle by printing an extra copy of the Bible story picture onto heavyweight paper. Cut the picture into four long strips. As toddlers work the puzzles, review the Bible story.

SAY: Jethro came to see Moses. Jethro said Moses needed help to lead God's people. Moses chose helpers who loved God. **GOD IS GOOD.** God gives Jesus' followers friends of faith to help us.

Read in a tent

Drape a blanket over two chairs or over three sides of a table. Provide Bible storybooks for toddlers to look through. Talk about how Moses sat in his tent and talked to God for the people from sunup to sundown.

SAY: Moses needed help to lead God's people. Moses chose helpers who loved God. **GOD IS GOOD.** God gives us friends, family, and helpers!

Practice helping

Encourage toddlers to make helpful choices by assigning simple tasks for them to do, such as putting away their snacks when they are finished, picking up toys, or putting the Bibles back on the shelf. Praise toddlers for their help.

SAY: Thank you for being such good helpers! Moses needed help to lead God's people. **GOD IS GOOD!** God gives Jesus' followers friends of faith to help us.

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, Story Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.