

## **A Wonder in the Wilderness**

### **Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What person, besides a family member, knows you the best?
2. When is the last time you got lost?

**Read the following passage:** Exodus 2:15-22.

Moses is one of the most remarkable figures in the Old Testament. What is often overlooked is the gap in Moses's life that was filled by a much lesser known figure named Reuel (also known as Jethro). When Moses fled to the wilderness after murdering an Egyptian, Jethro became the father figure that Moses seemed to lack. Jethro modeled the acceptance, affirmation, and accountability that Moses would ultimately find in God.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Do you have relationships with “fathers” or “mothers” in which you experience acceptance in spite of your failures or flaws? Explain.
2. Do you have relationships in the church that feel like true spiritual family? (This is the kind of language Jesus uses in places like Mark 3:33-35.) Explain. What can you do to deepen your experience of spiritual family?
3. Moses did not immediately embrace God's call on his life. And even after his dramatic encounter at the burning bush, Moses received encouragement from Jethro (see Exodus 4:18). We, too, often need encouragement to do what God is calling us to do. Can you think of a recent occasion in which you affirmed someone else in their identity or calling? Explain. Who are some people you know whom you could encourage in this way?
4. Read Exodus 18:5-12. When Jethro learned what God had done for Moses and the Israelites, Jethro celebrated with Moses. Do you genuinely celebrate with others when they succeed? Explain. Do you have anyone whom you know will genuinely celebrate with you when you experience success? Explain.
5. Read Exodus 18:13-18. Jethro helped Moses see some of the blind spots in his leadership. Do you have anyone in your life who is helping you see your blind spots? If not, who are some people who might be able to help you in this way?

6. In what ways could you most benefit from spiritual family right now in your life? What are some ways you could most bless others? Explain.

**Pray**