

August 21, 2022

Discovering God Exodus 18 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 12 Num. 34

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

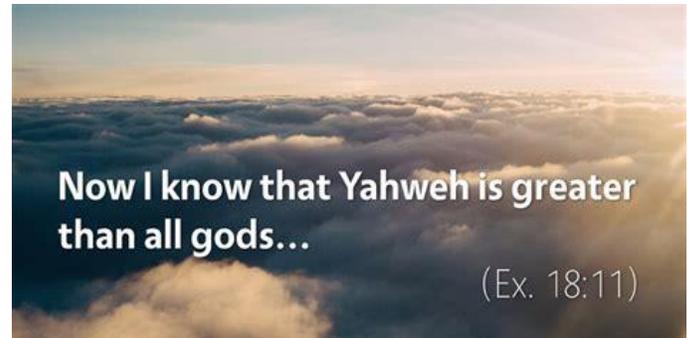
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will be studying Exodus chapter 18. In this passage Moses is leading the nation of Israel through the desert and his father-in-law brings his wife Zipporah to join him. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law hears of the great things that God has done for Israel. His response to hearing this is to sacrifice to God and declare Him the God above all other gods. Because of what God has done for Israel Jethro grows in his understanding of God. Through Moses he is making new discoveries about God. Join us this week as we look at how people are able to make new discoveries about God by hearing how God has worked in your life.



EXODUS 18 NASB

Jethro, Moses' Father-in-law

1Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. 2Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Moses' wife Zipporah, after he had sent her away, 3and her two sons, of whom one was named Gershom, for Moses said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." 4The other was named Eliezer, for *he said*, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh."

5Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was camped, at the mount of God. 6He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her." 7Then Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, and he bowed down and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. 8Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had befallen them on the journey, and *how* the LORD had delivered them. 9Jethro rejoiced over all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, in delivering them from the hand of the Egyptians. 10So Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD who delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of Pharaoh, *and* who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. 11Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; indeed, it was proven when they dealt proudly against the people." 12Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law before God.

13It came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. 14Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit *as judge* and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?" 15Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 16When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws."

Jethro Counsels Moses

17Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. 18You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. 19Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, 20then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. 21Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them *as* leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. 22Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear *the burden* with you. 23If you do this thing and God *so* commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace."

24So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. 26They judged the people at all times; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge. 27Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way into his own land.

● **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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10.

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. Why do you think Jethro brought Zipporah to Moses?
2. Is there significance in the names of Moses' two sons?
3. What does Jethro declare about the Lord? Why?
4. Do you think Jethro's declaration is encouraging to Moses? Why?
5. What is Jethro's counsel to Moses?
6. How do you think Jethro heard about Israel before he came to Moses?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes