

## **Small Group Questions: Why Community?**

**Series:** Strength in Numbers

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### **Read**

Exodus 18:13-24; Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Genesis 14:12-16; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, and 1 Samuel 20:17-23

### **Reflect**

Moses is probably at least in his 80s when his father-in-law, Jethro, tells him he needs to share the load of serving as judge for the people of Israel while in the Wilderness. Jethro says the work is too heavy to do alone, and Moses would only wear himself out and the people seeking advice would likely go away dissatisfied or discouraged. To prevent this, Jethro suggests raising up trustable leaders to share the load. How does this show the value and benefits of community?

Pastor Josh Walters highlights three benefits of community.

#### **1. Sharpening in my struggles.**

- a. In Exodus 18, how does Moses respond to Jethro's advice?
- b. How do you tend to respond when someone advises you about an area of your life where you're struggling?
  - i. What excuses might make it easy to dismiss them? (ex. Moses could have rationalized away the advice because of his own age, experience, and position.)
- c. Do you have someone like Jethro in your life? ...Someone caring and courageous enough to tell you things you don't see about yourself?
- d. Have you given anyone permission to play that role in your life, making it easier for them to come to you with advice that could help you?

#### **2. A tribe in my troubles.**

- a. In Genesis 14, Abram (later Abraham) goes to rescue his nephew, Lot, despite Lot bringing much of the trouble on himself. As a church community, what can this teach us?
- b. How has God used others to reach out to you?

#### **3. Provision in my pain.**

- a. Who has been there for you during a hard time? How can you glorify God by sharing with others, the comfort you received?
- b. What steps are you taking to develop a community?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?