
FAITH AND FAMILY

EXODUS 18:1-12



Faith and family can sometimes conflict. Some people sacrifice faith for family. Some people sacrifice family for faith. How then do we connect and relate faith and family? Moses can help us here. Let's look at the connection between faith and family in Moses' life in Exodus 18:1-12.

- **FAITH COMES BEFORE FAMILY (1-4)**
- **FAITH REMEMBERS FAMILY (5-7)**
- **FAITH UNITES FAMILY (8-12)**

LEARNING

FAITH COMES BEFORE FAMILY (1-4)

Moses's life was a testimony to faith being more important than family. Three times faith resulted in him being separated from his family. The first time was when his parents by faith put him in a basket on the Nile River, trusting God to look after him (Heb. 11:23). Separated from his Israelite family, God brought him into Pharaoh's family. The second separation was when he chose to suffer affliction with the Israelites rather than enjoy all the privileges and pleasures of being an Egyptian Royal (Heb. 11:24-27). Separated from his Egyptian family, God brought him into a Midianite family. The third separation was God's call to leave his Midianite family and go to Egypt to deliver God's family.

GOD GIVES US FAMILIES TO BRING THEM TO FAITH,
BUT FAMILIES MUST NEVER KEEP US FROM FAITH.

"I get that faith comes before family, but does that mean I just forget family?" No, faith first, does not mean family last.

FAITH REMEMBERS FAMILY (5-7)

When Moses's father-in-law had heard of all that God had done for Moses and Israel in the Exodus, he gathered Moses's family and set off to meet him in the wilderness. When Moses received word of this, **Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent** (7). Although Moses put his faith before his family, he did not forget his family. When opportunity arose, he gladly and lovingly reunited with them.

FAITH PUTS FAMILY SECOND,
BUT NEVER LAST.

"So how did they catch up when they reunited?" They talked about God and his acts.

FAITH UNITES FAMILY (8-12)

Let's listen in on their family reunion. **Then Moses 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 come upon them in the way, and how the Lord had delivered them. And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the Lord had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians. Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God** (8-12).

Jethro listened to Moses (8). Jethro rejoiced with Moses (9). Jethro confessed to Moses (10-11). Jethro sacrificed with Moses (12a). Jethro fellowshiped with Moses (12b). Faith may separate for a time but, ultimately it unites family closer than ever before.

WHEN WE PUT FAITH BEFORE FAMILY,
GOD WILL PUT FAITH IN OUR FAMILIES.

LOVING

Moses's willingness to give up everything for God reminds us of Christ's willingness to give up his heavenly family for the sake of his earthly family. Just as Moses gave up his earthly comforts to serve God and his people, Christ gave up all heavenly comforts to do the same. Christ put faith before family, for the sake of his family's faith, and ultimately expanded and united his family in faith.

LIVING

Connect faith and family so that our family comes to faith.
