

Group Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever gotten a good piece of advice from someone you didn't like?
2. How can family problems affect our spiritual life?
3. What does it mean to you to be trustworthy?
4. Do you need help in what God is calling you to do?
5. Give some examples of ways we might use power in a positive way.

In-Law Advice **Exodus 18**

It would have to be difficult to take advice from your father-in-law, especially when you're having problems with your wife! But Jethro's advice was good: "select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who had dishonest gain—and appoint them." So we see some of the first qualifications for leadership among God's people. Look for people who are capable. Being nice is one thing, but we also need people who can get the job done. We also need people who are trustworthy. This means people who can keep things confidential when the situation requires it. As Jesus said—let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."

The most interesting qualification to me is someone who "hates dishonest gain." This is more than money. This means looking for someone who doesn't abuse power. At this point the Israelites had two models of power: The authoritarian Pharaoh model that abuses power to the point of even killing people and the slavery model. A laissez-faire model that assumes no responsibility for the use of power. What God is looking for is something quite different. He wants to show them a whole new way of using power.