

Moses Part 7 The Trusted Mentor



Exodus 2:15-22; 18:1-27



We all need wise people in our lives who can give us guidance and support. Moses was no different, and this week we'll explore his relationship with his trusted mentor, Jethro. As we think about the importance of these kinds of relationships, the young people will have the opportunity to consider whether they would like a spiritual mentor and how that could potentially work in your church setting. They can also share their experiences of having a trusted mentor to support them on their spiritual journey.

You will need:

- Mentor Match Cards handout
- Prayer Prompts handout



Say:

According to a dictionary, a mentor is 'an experienced and trusted adviser'. In today's Bassline we will meet Moses' trusted mentor – but first let's familiarise ourselves with a whole host of mentors!

Leader's notes:

Divide the group into teams and give each group a set of 'Mentor Match Cards' (these sets will need to be prepared prior to the session). See which group can match the mentor with the mentee the quickest.

- Professor Dumbledore Harry Potter
- Gandalf Frodo
- Paul Timothy

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- Jesus The Disciples
- Mushu Mulan
- Mary Poppins The Banks Children



- Mufasa Simba
- Uncle Ben Peter Parker
- Haymitch Abernathy Katniss Everdeen
- Master Shifu Kung Fu Panda
- Alfred Bruce Wayne
- Master Yoda The Jedi

Leader's notes:

Once the young people have matched the mentors to the mentees, then discuss the different kinds of relationships that are represented. What are the positive and negative dynamics of some of these relationships?

Ask:

How would you describe an excellent mentor?



Ask

If you could choose anyone from the list of mentors to be your guide, who would you choose? Explain your choice.

Leader's notes:

Jesus is the obvious answer to the question, but other mentor choices could be discussed.





Leader's notes:

If there are those in the group who have followed through the Moses series so far, then give them one minute to recap the story. We will try this activity every week, and it will get trickier to fit in all the facts as we move through the story of Moses.

Say:

Moses was a successful leader, the man whom God had appointed to deliver Israel. It is easy to see Moses as a one-man-band with just him and God in a fantastic partnership. But Moses had a mentor, a man hardly mentioned in Scripture. This man was there when Moses needed someone the most.

Ask:

We have already met Moses' mentor in the story so far. Who do you think it could be?



Read:

- ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. ¹⁶ Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.
- ¹⁸ When the girls returned to Reuel (Jethro) their father, he asked them, 'Why have you returned so early today?'
- ¹⁹ They answered, 'An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock.'
- ²⁰ 'And where is he?' Reuel asked his daughters. 'Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat.'
- ²¹ Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. ²² Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, 'I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.'
- (Exodus 2:15-22)

Ask:

What important role did Reuel, also known as Jethro, play in this crucial moment in Moses' life?

Say:

Jethro first appears in Scripture with the name Reuel, 'Friend of God', in Exodus 2. He was a Midianite leader and priest who would have been a man of great standing in this community. Moses stumbled across Jethro in his flight out of Egypt after he had murdered an Egyptian guard. Jethro welcomed Moses with a meal, and three verses later Moses is married to Jethro's daughter! We don't meet Jethro again until Exodus 18 when he provides some invaluable advice to Moses.

Leader's notes:

Either read or listen to Exodus 18 from the NIV translation.

Listen:

David Suchet *NIV* Bible OO68 Exodus 18 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFaZUWACouk

Discuss:

- What did Jethro notice about Moses' workload?
- What were Jethro's concerns?
- What could Jethro see that Moses was unable to see?
- What was Jethro's solution?
- Why do you think Moses was unable to see this solution for himself?
- What difference do you think Jethro's wisdom made to Moses' life from that point on?





Say:

Jethro was a wise leader and cared for his son-in-law. He offered advice and Moses listened. He recognised that Jethro had years of experience behind him and was willing to share everything he had learned with Moses.

Ask:

- In what ways are we sometimes reluctant to listen to advice and wisdom from the more mature members of our corps?
- What can we learn from Moses and his conversation with Jethro?



Leader's notes:

Read and discuss the following quote.

'If we are serious about this ... then one thing is for sure, we may never make it without a Jethro. He, or she, will be the person who trains us, shapes us and who generally puts up with us while God is preparing us for his purposes. They will believe in us when nobody else does, understand us when everyone else has done a runner ... Their influence on our lives is incalculable ... the personal input of a man or woman who has been through the mill already simply cannot be replaced. It was the Father in Heaven who released Moses into his ministry of leading Jewish people. But it was Jethro, his father (figure) on earth who got him ready for it – and made such an impression on him that Moses was able to fulfil the same role with Joshua later on.'

- Moses - Making of a Leader, Cleland Thom



Leader's notes:

The direction of the Sound Check activity will depend on your corps setting and the provisions available for mentor relationships. The aim of this section is to discuss the importance of mentor relationships and how they can have a positive impact on our spiritual journey. If you already have systems in place in your corps to assign mentors, then share this with the young people.

You can refer to the discipleship resource Side-by-Side for further equipping and guidance around mentoring and safeguarding (salvationist.org.uk/side-by-side).

Here are some questions to get the discussion started:



- Have you had / do you have now a mentor relationship with someone?
- Would you like one?
- How do you think it would benefit you?
- What do you think you could offer to a mentorship like this?

Explain that this kind of relationship can also be called one-to-one discipleship. During the discussion explain about the helpful nature of accountability and maybe share your own experience of being mentored by a more mature Christian. Encourage the young people that if they are serious about living as a disciple of Jesus, this is a vital element to put in place. If you have any group members who are serious about wanting to be discipled, discuss with them some of the practical options that are open to them in your corps.



Ask:

Which younger members of your corps could you offer spiritual support to?



Leader's notes:

Place the following prayer prompts in different places in the room. The prayer prompts are available on a handout. Play some reflective music and encourage the young people to move to the different prayer points to spend time in reflection.

- Thank God for all the people who have had a significant impact on your life or who are walking alongside you on your journey of discipleship now.
- If you would like a mentor, pray and ask God to bring someone into your life to help you in your Christian walk.
- Pray for your Christian friends and ask God to help you be a strong support and encouragement to each other in your living and growing in Jesus day by day.
- Ask God if there is anyone younger than you, in faith, that you can be an encouragement to.





Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?

What is the one thing you will take away from the events in today's story?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.







Professor Dumbledore	Mufasa
Gandalf	Uncle Ben
Paul	Haymitch Abernathy
Jesus	Master Shifu
Mushu	Alfred
Mary Poppins	Master Yoda



Harry Potter	Simba
Frodo	Peter Parker
Timothy	Katniss Everdeen
The Disciples	Kung Fu Panda
Mulan	Bruce Wayne
The Banks Children	The Jedi



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If you would like a mentor, pray and ask God to bring someone into your life to help you in your Christian walk.



Pray for your
Christian friends and ask God to help you be a strong support and encouragement to each other in your living and growing in Jesus day by day.



Ask God if there is anyone younger than you, in faith, that you can be an encouragement to.