

Discussion Questions Set #1

“The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.” (Exodus 17:5-6)

1. Moses is quick to turn to God when faced with the grumbling and murmuring of the people he was leading. From a practical perspective, what does taking such concerns to God, instead of acting out of frustration, accomplish for us?
2. What barriers exist or why might we be reluctant to take such concerns to God?
3. What is the significance to the fact that God pledged to “stand there before” Moses at Horeb?
4. What is the significance of Moses acting in obedience “before the people” and “in the sight of the elders of Israel”? What might this suggest about leadership in the church today?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.” So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.” (Exodus 17:8-13)

Faced with yet another difficulty – the Amalekites attacking the weak and marginalized of Israel – Moses delegated some aspects of leadership to Joshua and accepted the help of Aaron and Hur.

1. What does Moses’ willingness to delegate to Joshua and his willingness to accept the help of Aaron and Hur show about how he understood his leadership task?
2. Moses’ empowering of Joshua might be seen as an act of mentoring or discipleship. Why is discipleship like this important within the people of God? What happens when leaders fail to disciple (empower) others?
3. What might it look like for us to “hold up the hands” of those in leadership over us? What practical actions might this entail?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.” (Exodus 18:17-18)

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ ... From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Ephesians 4:11-13,16)

1. Why were Moses’ leadership actions “not good” or “not wise”? What does this suggest to us about leadership in the church?
2. Our example for Exodus and our passage from Ephesians 4 both show the importance of cooperative effort in leadership. On a scale of 1-10, how well do you share leadership tasks? On a scale of 1-10, how well do you accept leadership tasks delegated to you?
3. Discuss the pattern of leadership that is desired to see formed at Hillside (E3 Leadership) and the following three leadership actions:
 - a. ENCOURAGE
 - b. EQUIP
 - c. EMPOWER