

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPEN DOOR POLICY

- **Icebreaker:** Think about a skill you have now—this could be at work, in a hobby, as a parent, or even in your faith. What's one lesson you had to learn "the hard way" that you wish someone with a "been there, done that" story had told you about earlier?
- **Read Exodus 18:13-18 together.** What words would you use to describe Moses' leadership style and personal state before Jethro steps in? Why do you think Moses was leading this way?
- Jethro was the "priest of Midian," which meant he had decades of experience leading nomadic people, settling disputes, and managing logistics. How did his specific past (his "tickets") uniquely prepare him to help Moses in this exact moment?
- Chris pointed out how Jethro gave advice. He didn't just offer a platitude like "Don't burn out." He:

Validated the person but challenged the system (v. 19-20).

Provided a specific plan (v. 21-22a).

Explained the "why-to," not just the "how-to" (v. 22b-23).

Which of these three elements do you think is most crucial for making advice actually helpful and easy to receive? Why?

- The sermon's central idea is that our "failure isn't final" and our "pain isn't pointless." Think about a past hardship, mistake, or difficult season in your own life. How have you seen God begin to redeem that experience by allowing it to help someone else?
- Chris challenged everyone to "scan" their lives for a "Moses"—someone who is gifted and growing, but might be heading for burnout or just needs a "survival guide" for a season you've already walked through. As you scan your world (work, family, friends, this group), who comes to mind?
- The challenge was to initiate contact, not by saying "Can I mentor you?" but with something like, "Hey, I remember what it was like when... Would you be open to me sharing a couple of things I wish I'd known?" What makes this approach feel different and less awkward?
- What is one barrier (like feeling unqualified, fear of rejection, or just being too busy) that keeps you from offering your story as a "survival guide" to someone else? How can this group pray for you this week as you look for your "Moses"?