

GOD'S BLESSING OF RECOGNIZING HIS REPROOFS FOR WRONG WAYS TO RICHES

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Lesson 4

Providing "GOD'S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM"



Thank you for your participation!

With great joy our Denomination wishes to provide Financial Hope for our church members.

This is your job as instructor – providing HOPE.

These first 5 lessons are all about preparing ourselves for "The Great Experiment". That comes in Lesson 6.

Your class friends need to be well prepared and have signed each lesson in order to be ready for this "Great Experiment of Faith". The lessons following Lesson 6 deal with God's promised help/blessings to bring financial freedom out of financial bondage.

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

What has been most helpful for you as you prepare?

Are there steps that you have been skipping? Is that wise? Do you need to prepare better?

There are 5 steps you should take during your lesson preparation:

1) **Pray**

before you prepare a new lesson that God would open your heart and your mind to His principles, that He would give you insight, and that He would help you to make these principles part of your own life. Ask Him to point out specific ways He has been working in your life through this course that you can share with others.

2) **Read** this lesson at home preferably a week prior to class meeting

3) **Answer** all questions yourself on paper.

4) **Discuss** the material with a spouse or friend.

6) **Pray**

for your group that they would come with open hearts. That God would work in and through them. That they would understand the great joy the Lord desires for them as they seek to come closer to Him. Who in the group is struggling the most with these principles? Pray specifically for them.

LESSON PRESENTATION

You have some experience now with your group. Have you been able to make it interesting? Do you need to change some things? Are there people who are not responsive? How can you draw them in? Are there persons who did not do their home preparation before coming to class? Lay these things before the Lord. He will give you insight.

TOTAL anticipated lesson time is 1:48 min.

This lesson is based on **discussions** and discussion takes time—but it is worth it.

DO NOT BEGIN BY PRAYER! *Begin with testimonies!*

One of the greatest ways to begin a lesson is by requesting testimonies about the Lord's enablement in applying the previous lessons. As you begin the fourth lesson, review the first three lessons through testimonies from your group. Testimonies bring the lessons alive. Testimonies bring our living God into the middle of group.

NOW – After the testimonies, this is the time for Prayers of Praise, Gratitude and Admiration to the MOST HIGH.

Testimonies first, followed by praise, gratitude and admiration will set the tone for this meeting with Christ Jesus in the center.

This lesson has 9 parts.

Make sure everyone has a copy of the lesson. If you have visitors from time to time you may need to be prepared with an extra lesson so they can participate.

Make sure extra pens are available for people who forget.

Think of other tools you may want to use during this session and prepare accordingly.

Make sure to lead your members toward signing the commitment note. This is the climax of each lesson. Their signature indicates he/she is taking the next step towards trusting God for Financial Freedom.

AT The close pass out Lesson 5, with encouragement to complete it prior to the next session.

LESSON GUIDE

The Biblical perspective presented here on how to respond to financial obstacles can be a turning point for you. It could be that the setbacks you might otherwise brush off as bad luck have actually been God's reproofs, calling you to return to the ways that work. He calls through Proverbs, the book of wisdom, through the example of Joshua and the Gibeonites or Elisha and Gehazi, through the admonition of Paul to Timothy. God defines for each of us the ultimatum between two ways to riches: either through sorrow, as we sacrifice relationships and health, or through the blessing of the Lord as we identify and implement His prerequisites for success in our lives.

1. RECOGNIZE GOD'S REPROOFS FOR WRONG WAYS TO RICHES

pp. 1–2 > 10 min <

ELISHA – A powerful reprover of unjust riches

Follow Elisha's example! Cover each of these 3 opening Bible verses with a few questions for the group. If you feel some or all of your members are not familiar with this Bible story, either give it briefly yourself or ask someone in your group to summarize it.

Gifts Refused (1 Kings 5:15-16)

Who has ever refused a gift because you felt spiritually uncomfortable about it?

How did you handle this without offending the giver?

Turn at God's Reproof (Prov. 1:22-23)

Have you made wrong financial decisions?

How did God reprove you?

Who is ready tonight to let Jesus turn their pain into financial freedom?

Greed Rebuked (2 Kings 5:26-27)

Who can and will admit to having had episodes of greed in their lives?

How were you tempted?

Due to greed, do you still suffer from strained relationships?

Money exerts a certain control over us because it seems to hold out so much (false) promise of happiness. It whispers with great force, "Think and act so as to get into a position to enjoy my benefits." This may include stealing, borrowing, or working. Money promises happiness, and we serve it by believing the promise and walking by that faith.

- John Piper

2. TO WHAT DEGREE ARE YOU EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL REPROOFS

p. 3 > 10 min < Personal Evaluation

Everyone should have filled out the Personal Evaluation at home.

Check if it was completed, then have each person total both their 'YES' and 'NO' answers.

The answers to all questions are "**no**", so ask them to put the total of their "**no**" answers as the score.

EVALUATION SCORE: share the 3 evaluation categories.

My friends, let us discover to what degree are you experiencing financial reproofs?

Who has 18-10 '**NO**' answers – raise your hands. **YOU ONLY HAVE WARNING REPROOFS.**

Who has 9-5 '**NO**' answers – raise your hands. **YOU HAVE STRONG REPROOFS.**

Who has 4-1 'NO' answers – do NOT raise your hands – YOU ARE EXPERIENCING SEVERE REPROOFS.

Please copy these 3 categories in your notes behind each of the corresponding numbers. You will need this information for later review or discussion with your spouse or friend.

I will now repeat the 3 category statements.

18-10 correct = Warning reproofs

9-5 correct = Strong reproofs

4-1 correct = Severe reproofs

If you have time you can briefly discuss these. However! Most of their questions should be answered as you go through the rest of the lesson. This is just to set the stage so that they are interested to hear how God's reproofs work.

3. KNOW THE WAY TO GET RICHES

p. 4 > 15 min <

A TIME OF PRAYER! Let us kneel down and on our knees intercede with God our Heavenly Father on behalf of other church members. Listed here are 7 ways to riches with SORROW.

We will pray for each of these 7 points to be turned into a way to riches WITHOUT sorrow.

We will pray for other church members without naming their names or simply for a general application of a point/principle in our church.

As people kneel, have a different person pray for each of the 7 points beginning with point 1, taking turns until all 7 are covered.

Each person in prayer covers two things, he: (a) quotes the 2 Bible verses (Prov .1:23 and Mat. 6:33.

And (b) The number and title of the point he is praying for.

Here are the samples:

Point 1. "Lord we have families in our church who are experiencing your reproofs by having disruptions in their relationship. You told them to turn at your reproof: Often people don't how to do that, therefore we are asking for this on their behalf. You promised to pour out your Holy Spirit upon them. You Jesus promised to make your words/will known to them. I am now asking you to physically demonstrate this among us. Help this family (or families) to first seek the Kingdom of God. We give you praise and thanks, AMEN."

Point 4. "Lord we have young people in our church who are experiencing your reproofs by having tried jobs in Kiev or abroad, or some other venture, and they experienced failure. You told them to turn at your reproof: Often these good active people don't how to do that, therefore we are asking for this on their behalf. You promised to pour out your Holy Spirit upon them. You, Jesus, promised to make your words/will known to them. I am now asking you to physically demonstrate this among us. Help THIS Brother or Sister to first seek the Kingdom of God. We give you praise and thanks, AMEN."

NOTE: Upon closure of the first prayer reiterate the use of the 2 Bible verses and the point of prayer prior to the next prayer. Keep reiterating this each time until the people follow this concept automatically.

In a kneeling position the person praying needs to fairly shout out his prayer or no one can hear it, and people cannot unite in petition. The vocally praying person represents the whole group.

4. HOW REPROOFS DEVELOP IN MARRIAGE

p. 5 > 20 min <

Financial Reproofs from Self-Rejection

Cover these 5 items. Actually 10 – 5 concerning husbands and 5 concerning wives.

Cover each item by reading it aloud and asking the group if they can think of such an actual present situation in a family that they know.

For instance 1a – the husband’s side. Once you receive a response of ‘Yes I do know one man who is going through this.’ Let it be briefly explained without using names or specific details that would indicate who it is; then move on (divulging names is slander).

Now cover 5b – the wife’s side. What reaction have they observed in the wife (This can be positive or negative.)

Now move to 2a and 2b – and so on until all items are covered.

Do use caution though so that it does not become a gossip session!

If you think this will not work, or if it is not working to think of actual situations, then discuss point by point the progressing of the man’s actions and the wife’s responses. These happen to us unbeknownst. If we know what to look for—we have fought half the battle!

5. FINANCIAL REPROOFS FROM MORAL IMPURITY

p. 6 > 0 min <

The following points are deep and sensitive points as they concern having physical sexual relations before marriage. Your group may contain mixed genders, or singles, or youth. Many of our members suffer in one fashion or another from some of these symptoms. Some need real help. But this session is not the place and time for that. So please pass over this part and continue with the financial part.

6. RECOGNIZE FINANCIAL REPROOFS

p. 7 > 15 min <

Have the group read through each of the 10 items orally (5 min). Ask **3** questions about each point. Please note: these difficulties are not always the result of a financial reproof! These are the Scriptures that show how God CAN use them as reproofs, and we need to examine our own hearts when we experience these things to see if God is improving us for something.

- 1) Who has seen someone have to deal with such a difficulty? (or was somehow involved in it?)
- 2) Was it the result of financial sin? What can you learn from that?
- 3) After what we learned today what can you do to avoid this difficulty?

NOTE: Some questions may not apply to each point or you may not get an answer. But seek to help them see how these can be reproofs. Help them turn their hearts to be ready to sign the commitment.

Signature – Personal Commitment to Turn at GOD’s Reproofs

In numerous places in Holy Scripture God offers us wisdom. As a Loving Father, God also frequently indicated that wisdom is found by spending a lot of time reading and meditating on the Bible.

Wisdom is the application of knowledge. Our Guide, the Holy Spirit, uses Biblically gained wisdom to direct the circumstances in our lives. Proverbs is an incredible book of wisdom with MUCH to say about finances. Discuss the benefit of reading something from Proverbs every day. This commitment only takes 5 minutes a day. It is worthwhile! Proverbs is full of advice about finances.

This is part of the ‘**GREAT EXPERIMENT**’ with these 20 steps towards a whole new lifestyle.

Do not allow criticism or a critical spirit in your group (and especially not in yourself!) towards those not ready to make commitments. Criticism glorifies Satan’s agenda. Love brings glory Christ’s agenda.

7. CAN YOU RECOGNIZE GOD'S FINANCIAL REPROOFS?

p. 8 > 8 min < Basic Quiz Number 4

Assign this simple activity. Let each person share what they learned from this page at home. The answers are pretty self-explanatory.

Answers: A.3 B.1 C.4 D.2

Five reproofs – isn't it amazing how God guides us toward obtaining His financial freedom? What did you do about it? What practical use do you see here for next 6 months in your life?

8. WHOM DID GOD REPROVE FOR UNSCRIPTURAL RICHES?

p. 9 > 15 min < Advanced Quiz Number 4

This kind of questionnaire can be handled as general open questions to be answered by the group. The danger with doing that is that often an answer is vocalized before a slower reader has finished reading. Or fast reacting people eliminate chances for slower ones to participate.

Therefore in general there is much more personal benefit by individually answering questions.

Give the answers: 1.C Ahab 2.I Balaam 3.E Gideon 4.B Gehazi 5.D Zacchaeus
6.G Judas 7.A Achan 8.H Solomon 9.F Jacob

Remember the importance of relating the issues to the names of the people.

Ask if there are any questions or comments.

REMEMBER THIS IS HOLY SCRIPTURE! !! The New Testament specifically tells us that these real life illustrations are to be examples for us to learn from. These are things people actually did. And this is how God actually reprovved them. God has not changed – JESUS will reprove us in the same way for the same mistakes we make, not because He is angry but because He wants much more abundant lives for us. GOD'S DESIRE FOR US IS FINANCIAL PEACE and FREEDOM.

9. WHAT WERE GOD'S REPROOFS FOR WRONGFUL GAIN?

p. 10 > 15 min < Comprehensive Quiz Number 4

Wrongful gain and how it hurts others and the consequences that later evolve can only be discovered by a deeper spiritual level of discernment. God is greatly interested in extending our mental powers, physical capabilities and spiritual success. He explicitly stated that we should be OVERCOMERS of evil.

GOD's principle is simple: SOW / REAP. Before anything else, sow PRAISE; to that add MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURAL WISDOM; then TOTAL DEPENDENCE UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Later reap the harvest of Godliness with contentment – which is – a whole new lifestyle of Godly Financial Freedom. (Nearly all of our earthly life is related to finances – and often our religious aspirations bog down in some sort of a financial difficulty.)

This is the last class activity. It has 3 parts to it.

Make sure it is an animated participation by all group members together.

Make sure the right person is matched by answers from both lists at the same time.

Only then move to the next person on the list.

NOTE: Keep this coordinated by keeping the whole group focused on one point at a time.

Ask if everyone wrote it down.

Ask if they are all agreed.

Ask if any explanation is necessary.

Then have the group move to the next person on the list.

Answers are: 1 Achan D, K; 2 Gehazi G, R; 3 Ahab I, N; 4 Zacchaeus A, P; 5 Gideon C, M
6 Jacob E, J; 7 Judas H, O; 8 Solomon B, Q; 9 Balaam F, L

Distribute Lesson # 5 and instruct / request that this lesson be read and filled out at home prior to the next meeting. Turn to p. 3 and let them look at the Personal Evaluation. Have each person at home privately discover to what extent they have a love for money.

Close in prayer–

We praise you Jesus for the rebukes you send because they yield the fruit of peace we so fervently desire. Lord, reproofs are unpleasant, but they will help us to become the holy persons that you envision. (Heb. 12:11) We know Lord that all things work together for our good. (Rom. 8:28). Grant us therefore an attitude of gratitude we pray. Amen

Contact Information for God's Blessing of Financial Freedom

General info, Training, follow-up, help – Vera Lavrinenko – 096 254 33 24

Orders for paper materials – lessons, guides, posters, magnets, banners – Ivanka Dubenchuk – 096 103 98 77

For electronic materials on FF Website <http://svoboda.sytes.net> – Ivan Onishuk