

GOD'S BLESSING OF DEVELOPING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF YOUR HOME

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Lesson 16



Providing “GOD’S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM”

Our homes are the “center of our lives”. Daily all our activities are geared to our family unit and making those part of that joyful and successful home life. Happy spouse, happy life!

Again thank you for continuing to bring a new financial lifestyle into your church!

Unity of purpose is one of God’s great desires for our families.

God’s vision? Our home to be a ministry center that exudes His love, heals hurting people and glorifies Him.

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

As you work through your preparations, how are you going to bring this lesson alive? Be thinking of that all the time.

Be prepared!

1) **Pray**

For the Lord to open up new insights by which you can actually see this lesson implemented in your church. Our Christian homes are God’s crucial instrument. On those homes a local church can have a solid foundation.

2) **Read** this lesson thoroughly and thoughtfully.

3) **Study** this Lesson Guide and think through what is most important to emphasize with your group.

4) Don’t just look up the answers to the quizzes, but **answer** all questions in the lesson yourself.

5) **Discuss** the material with a spouse or friend. What is difficult for them to understand in this material? What is a personal challenge for them?

6) **Pray**

For a hunger and thirst to make family changes bringing more beautiful home lives. Developing families who will stand together, strong in the love that is the home, without strife.

LESSON PRESENTATION

Applying this lesson at home requires the agreement of a spouse and the participation of the children.

To work on that, to prepare for that, to pray together about it, takes a lot of time. This session needs that time.

TOTAL anticipated lesson time is 2 hours and 30 minutes

Always make **discussion** the basis of the lesson. Encourage people who do not usually participate. Everyone has something that can be helpful to the whole group—without exception.

PRAYER TIME – Eternal God help us to develop our homes for future effectiveness. Many of our 10–16 year old children don't how to paint a wall, don't know how to weed a garden, don't know how to prepare a meal, don't know how to plan a week's work. And what is worse, Lord, many of our children have worldly standards just like their school friends. Lord, we need to change! Lord we need to prepare children and grandchildren with life skills and scriptural principles. Lord, You need model homes in our community. Would You make our homes into these model homes? Open our hearts and minds right now we pray. AMEN.

This lesson is covered in 8 parts. Most of the members of your group are going to feel they can't do all of this. That is true. We need to make little steps in the right direction. Little choice after little choice. But if we do not have a Bible basis and truths on which to make those choices and steps, we don't know which direction to go. So, keep the tone encouraging, not guilt laden. We are meant to be seeking God, becoming like Jesus Christ, learning from the Holy Spirit, our whole lives. It will not happen in one week—or in one year! But we have that light, that challenge, that joy to keep walking forward.

At the close pass out Lesson 17.

LESSON GUIDE

God designed successful education and ministry to be carried out simultaneously in the context of the family. This lesson voices the importance of the influence carried by a wife and mother. It lists the five dynamic functions of a home and how to put these into practice, making your home a teaching center, a hospitality center and much more! As you fulfill these God-given roles together you combat secular influences. By your example may your sons and daughters be inspired to take hold of a value system that honors Christ-like character and service! May they overcome the emphasis of our world on self-centeredness and entertainment! This message will serve as a source of great encouragement to mothers and fathers who desire to see their hearts and the hearts of their children turned toward one another.

“One life yielded to God at all costs is worth thousands only touched by God.”

~~Oswald Chambers

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1. DEVELOP THE FULL POTENTIAL OF YOUR HOME

pp. 1–2 > 10 min <

A PRAISEWORTHY WIFE – A developer of God-given potential

Learn from this praiseworthy wife’s example! Cover each of these **4** opening Bible verses with one question for the group.

Nurturing – (Prov. 31:27)

How can we begin training even little children to become industrious?

Teaching – (Prov. 31:26)

How can we motivate older children or teenagers to desire and enjoy working?

A Priceless Jewel – (Prov. 31:10-11, 31)

How can we portray and encourage the joy of making a contribution?

To see work, participation, duty, as an offering to God?

Ministering – (Prov. 31:20)

This week, make a list with your children about needs in your community that can met by good deeds, and without money. And get busy!!!

2. HAVE YOU DEVELOPED THE GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL OF YOUR HOME?

p. 3 > 10 min < PERSONAL EVALUATION

Here is the challenge before us, to fully develop our homes as God has desired.

Of course all of the answers are yes. And the evaluation is pretty obvious but it helps us to walk through it and think about what we are doing, what we could do, and the whole lesson will help us begin implementing changes.

For each of the **5** categories ask attendees to identify themselves.

Well, what do we know about developing our homes?

Who has 20-19 yes answers — FULL potential developed.

Who has 18-16 yes answers — GOOD potential developed.

Who has 15-12 yes answers — Potential BEING developed.

Who has 11-8 yes answers — Potential TO BE developed.

Who has 7-0 yes answers — MUCH to develop.

Repeat the evaluation categories if needed so that they can copy them in their notes for future reference. Ask if there are any misunderstandings or difficulties. Then move on –discussions will be held later.

3. KNOW WHAT FUNCTIONS GOD INTENDED TO BE IN YOUR HOME

pp. 4–9 > 40 min <

Some in your group may feel that these 5 functions of a home are not possible for them. Remember that we are looking to make little steps of change. Our homes have great potential. But we have to start with understanding principles and then being willing. We will provide you with some questions. If the members of your group are well prepared they will be able to discuss some of these in depth. If not you may need to take time to read through the text together.

TEACHING CENTER

A lot of parents expect schools to do all the educational training of their child and the church to do the Biblical training. What do we lose by that kind of thinking?

God's design is that parents produce Godly children who deeply influence the next generation around them. It was God's intent that our homes be the center of influence to the next generation. With the availability of government schools in our day and age, many parents have shirked their responsibility. Future generations are almost exclusively prepared and influenced by schools, colleges and universities. The problem with this is that nearly all instructors do NOT exhibit a life of prayer and Godliness. So un-Godliness is a by-product of education. In some cases it seems like un-Godliness is the main product, especially in higher education.

In your opinion, what do the schools lack in training a child? Is it possible to school your child at home? (Actually there are ways to do this in Ukraine.)

How much training can a church give your child in a couple hours a week? Is that effective? Is it enough?

What is the parent's responsibility?

How can you train a child in character and when should you start doing that? Let different ones share what they are doing, or examples they have seen from others that are helpful. Look at the page of character traits and talk about how this could be a beginning to focus on what children and youth (and adults!) should be developing in their lives so that they will reflect Christ and be successful in life. (Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of traits, but a place to begin with some of the key ones.)

Does your child have enough understanding of the principles of the Christian life to take a stand when tempted to do something wrong? (Or did you when you were a child?) What needs to be done to make that happen?

How are we going to raise young people who are mighty in spirit? What does it mean to be mighty in spirit?

What are the basic skills children should learn to be successful as Christian adults?

For youth groups: Engage your young people with the importance of the home being a teaching center. What important things have they learned in their home in regard to character and life skills? What do they still really need to learn? What does it mean to be mighty in spirit? Do they know someone who is? How does that person act? How can they wisely and respectfully approach their parents and ask for help in these areas? Not so easy for young people because when we reach a certain age it is easy to think we know much better than anyone else. Being able to operate a computer better than your parents is not the same as being diligent, faithful, or kind!

HOSPITALITY CENTER

What are the advantages of making your home a hospitality center?

How have you done that, or what examples have you seen of loving hospitality in your church?

Is it possible to be "hospitable" in a small apartment?

Does pride interfere with our ability to extend hospitality?

Ask people to brainstorm ideas of showing hospitality. Write them on a white board or large paper for all to see and contribute.

CRAFT CENTER

Having your home as a craft center means encouraging creativity and skills in the home. And it can even become a means of a mother earning some extra income as illustrated in the lesson.

Ask everyone to give ideas of what can be done in the home with crafts. Who is teaching their children some of these things, or giving them opportunities to learn? Or who learned things as a child or youth that they are benefiting from now? What are the possibilities? Don't discourage ANY ideas. Let people have freedom to explore and expand their ideas. Emphasize creativity.

The Proverbs 31 lady was a practical lady who was able to do a lot. She was caring for her family to make sure they were provided for as well as making things to sell.

NURTURING CENTER

Discuss what is involved in making a home a nurturing center. Go down through the ideas one by one and discuss how it can be done. Make sure that the first one "healthy attitudes" is discussed. We do not often associate attitudes with health, but many illnesses are caused or worsened by attitudes.

MINISTRY CENTER

Ask everyone if they look at their home as an extension of the local church. Too often we see the church and home as separate. "Church" is not Sundays. It is every day of the week because we ARE church.

Ask people if they see their homes as a ministry center. What do they do to show Jesus Christ and His love in their homes?

Looking over the list of items, ask everyone what they think they could do to have a greater spiritual outreach from their home.

Take time to cover the last item on page 9 "Reduce Bills and Improve the Quality of Your Life". Ask, what is something you could do right now in your family? Do you have other ideas that would possibly save money and also improve the quality of your family's life?

4. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A MOTHER WORKS OUTSIDE OF THE HOME

pp. 10–12 > 40 min <

Working outside of the home is so ingrained in our culture that most people would be considered abnormal if they stayed at home with their child or children after they reach the age of two or three. Nevertheless there are admonitions in Scripture of what should be a woman's priority. We have already seen in the last section how wonderfully a home can operate following Biblical principles. However when women have an outside job they have very little time to do anything else but that and take care of basic physical needs at home for the family. So it can be a very stressful issue to think about doing those things. Encourage everyone to keep an open mind, even if they are totally convinced that the only way is for a woman to have an outside job.

Read each of these 10 points. After each point ask if there is a lady who has experienced that conflict/ill feeling. They may just raise their hands or comment if they so desire. (20 min) *For youth groups:* What have they observed when a mother is working outside of the home? Go through the points and ask if they understand how that can happen. All of these young people are going to have a family themselves one day and how wonderful if they understand these things and agree on them before they even get married.

One more point of argument that is used for a mother to work is so that she will receive a pension when she is old. Is that a Biblical perspective? Is that trusting the government for the future instead of the Lord? What is your opinion? Should this be a major factor in deciding whether to work or not?

Next review "*The Myth of a Mother's Paycheck*" Ask if they are willing to share what they learned about the actual benefit in cash. List these final results on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper. (10 min)

On the basis of these factual results in your own town discuss if "*The Functions God Intended for their Home*" could become a viable option. (this was topic #3) Would there be benefits that would outweigh the financial gains? Is this something your family should pray about? Would this be a new step of faith? (10 min)

5. DO YOU PASS THE HOME DEVELOPMENT TEST?

p. 13 > 20 min <

Fifteen items to practice what we preach. A number of our church leaders have become concerned that we have lost practicing our faith during the weekdays. Previously under dictatorship this was next to impossible. Now with two new cultural revolutions (Free society based on personal work initiatives and internet/mobile phone compulsion) most of our church members are lost in displaying a daily living faith. Like many other denominations many of our members have become Sunday practitioners only. Perhaps even higher than 40% do not exhibit spiritual priorities at work or at home. "CHURCH" should begin at home and end in worship on the weekend as a congregation of believers.

PRAYER TIME

Go around the group and take turns reading the 15 "Test Areas" with the corresponding "Questions". After you have done that together ask everyone to separate as much as possible and pray over this list asking the Lord what they should be doing in their home. What are steps forward they could make? What is the most important step they need to make and how will they do it? If your group is made up of couples it would be good to have them pray together.

If your group involves singles, they might not have as much flexibility over what is happening in their home, assuming they are living with parents, but, there are still many personal changes they can make.

Youth groups: You can ask them, as Christian youth, how are they helping to make their home a more godly place, **even** if their parents are not Christians. As you go down through the list ask them to mark the things they definitely want to do when they have their own home and family. Have them pray about what they can do right now.

Personal Commitment to Encourage Home Development

This is not a one-time happening. This means family consent. It means family cooperation. It means pursuing this as a family until the new form of liberation becomes the joyful ownership of each member.

Motivate each signee to have their spouse also discuss and sign this if they are not attending the meetings together.

Youth can sign this on the basis of this is what they desire for the home they someday establish.

6. A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF HOSPITALITY

p. 14 > 5 min < Basic Quiz Number 16

Ask who did this with a child and what spiritual conversation were they able to have with the child.

Are God's financial freedom concepts shared in your home?

Answers: 1.B 2.B 3.C 4.B 5.C 6.A 7.C 8.A 9.B 10.C 11.C 12.B 13.C 14.C 15.B

7. HOW DOES GOD ILLUSTRATE THE POTENTIAL OF THE HOME?

p. 15 > 15 min < Advanced Quiz Number 16

This is a review of what we have been learning but with Biblical examples. As you go through them, ask for examples of homes from your church. Ask who has been able to practice (in your group) these functions of the home. What did they do or are they doing? What do you think is the hardest thing to do? What do you want to start doing, and how are you going to do that? (This is just another opportunity for people who did not share earlier, or had not thought of some of these things yet.)

Answers: 1.C Timothy's Home 2.B Mary and Martha's Home 3.F Philippian Jailor's Home
4.A Peter's Home 5.D Widow's Home 6.E Aquila and Priscilla's Home

8. WHO FAILED IN THE USE OF HIS HOME?

p. 16 > 10 min < Comprehensive Quiz Number 16

These are negative examples and there is much to be learned from the mistakes of others.

Ask which example spoke most deeply to their hearts. How? We need to constantly examine our motives, our desires, and align them with God's so that we stay on track.

Remember: This is step 16 towards God's complete financial freedom. Step 16 towards a whole new lifestyle.

Answers: 1. **H** Eli 2. **F** The Old Prophet 3. **C** Amnon 4. **G** Simon 5. **A** Noah 6. **J** Ahab 7. **B** Asa 8. **E** Achan 9. **D** Herod 10. **I** Hezekiah

Distribute Lesson # 17 and instruct that this lesson be read, the Personal Evaluation and other quizzes be done at home prior to the next meeting.

There are another **2** activities to do at home prior to next session.

a) Reemphasize this week's special home task: To make a list with your children about needs in your community that can be met by good deeds, and without money. Ask them to be ready to report back at the next session.

b) Fill out all the blanks in section 3 "*Basic Requirements to Earn a Good Name*" starting on page 5. They should be prepared to confirm that they did it when they come. You will not be evaluating what they have done! It is to help them think through issues about having a good reputation.

Close in prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Let our homes be full of "Hallowed be Your Name, Your kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven". In our homes we want "To seek first the Kingdom of God". (Mat. 6:33) We definitely must learn to believe "that You will add all these things to us." Father, whatever we are missing, restore us! Revive us! Heal our homes! Save our relatives. Bring Spiritual Desires. Help us step out in faith and put into practice what we have learned today. All to Your Glory and Praise. 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