

GOD'S BLESSING OF LISTENING TO THE CAUTIONS OF YOUR WIFE

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Lesson 19



Providing "GOD'S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM"

Thank you again for continuing to bring God's financial blessing and freedom!

Would your own home symbolize and magnify Phil. 4:8-9?

As the husband and father does your family consider you gentle, attentive, caring and cooperative?

Do you have energy for that after a long hard day's work?

Perhaps you are a wife. Try listening to yourself—not just the words, but the tone of voice. Learn anything?

What do the children hear? Do the children use positive or negative language?

Where did they get it from? What do they hear mostly?

What does your husband hear?

A meek spirit between spouses and beautiful words are like apples of gold in a frame of silver. (Prov. 25:11)

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

Two more lessons and a closing session – How will you lead them? Are you happy FF lessons are nearly over? Are you ready to let go because the group already knows what and how to do it? Or can you prepare some highlights?

Can you solicit some sighs about "it is too bad, it is almost over"?

There are 7 steps to take during your lesson preparation:

1. **Pray**

Confess your own need or shortcomings that pop into your mind now. Confess your group's need to openly discuss family intricacies. Some are hurting. Weep now, ahead of time over their hurts and feelings. Only after tears prepare this lesson on oneness.

- 2) **Read** the lesson at home. This concept of listening to a wife's cautions may be a totally strange idea to you. Take time to think it through.
- 3) **Study** the Lesson Guide – scribble some prayer items that stand out to you. Consider especially your presentation if you have a ladies group or a youth group. How can this lesson help them?
- 4) **Read** the "How Did You Know" story 2 times out loud prior to your group meeting. (Reading so people listen and move with you and retain it later is an ART.)
- 5) **Answer** all questions yourself on paper. Does God bring anything special to your attention as you do this?

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

7) **Pray**

Jesus, God of mercy, thank you that through this lesson you have called me to be a healer of friends in my church. Supernaturally enable me to help the struggling. Amen.

LESSON PRESENTATION

TOTAL anticipated lesson time is 2 hours and 10 minutes

This lesson is, as you know, based on **discussion**. Give thought to how you can make it comfortable to discuss these tensions between husband and wife. Don't bury it. But be wise in how you get them involved. If you have a couple's group, men will quickly feel "attacked". If a women's group, it is easy for it to turn into a session of—"attack"! So seek to make this a positive time for everyone. Not a time to increase tensions. We need much time to change direction and it starts with knowledge of what the Word of God is teaching, then we have to accept what applies to our personal lives, and then pray and begin to change. However, often we focus on how it applies to other people and how they should change. Therefore, keep turning people's focus back to their own lives and what God wants to do within them.

Begin with testimonies! Testimonies about prayer should abound. Make sure up front that testimonies be limited to concrete financial provisions!

PRAYER TIME –

Dear God and Father, You know how much havoc the devil has brought in many of our marriages. Lord Jesus we are saddened. Cleanse us with your blood. Holy Spirit, lead us into new paths, and green pastures.

(Perhaps read Psalm 23 here in a new fresh version)

This lesson is covered in 10 parts.

At the close pass out Lesson 20.

LESSON GUIDE

In God's economy a wife is not supposed to be in charge of her marriage and her family. But as a helpmeet, a wife can be used of God in profoundly effective and insightful ways to guard her husband from making unwise decisions because God designed them to come together as one. As God's intended helper God certainly does not want the wife to be left out of the financial and business aspects of the family. Rather God's purpose is for her to provide valuable assistance and counsel through her spoken and unspoken cautions. And a wise husband will be alerted to factors which he would otherwise not notice.

1. LISTEN TO THE CAUTIONS OF YOUR WIFE

pp. 1–2 > 10 min <

JOSEPH – A great achiever through serving

Follow Joseph's example of servanthood! Cover each of these 3 opening Bible verses with questions for the group. If you have a youth group you may want to take time to discuss how Joseph's life exemplified these verses. The connection is not as direct as in most of the lessons. Might be a good challenge for them to figure it out. (Possibly for you also!)

Listening Requires a Servant's Heart – (Mark 10:43-44)

What basic ingredient must we possess in order to be able 'to hear' – 'to listen'?

Listening Brings Correction – (Prov. 25:12)

How do people feel when someone gives you advice that is against what you think or want to do? Do you feel like you received a treasure? Or????

A Servant's Reward – (Prov. 1:5)

How can listening bring a servant's reward?

2. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO LISTEN TO YOUR WIFE?

p. 3 > 10 min < Personal Evaluation

When all are finished share the **20** answers. Have each write down their total score of correct answers.

Answers: 1.False 2.False 3.False 4.True 5.False 6.True 7.False 8.False 9.True 10.True 11.True 12.True 13.False 14.False 15.False 16.False 17.False 18.True 19.True 20. False

Some people may wish to argue about the answers. Please tell them that these questions are meant to be thought provoking, and you are allowed to disagree with the answer. The main point here is that listening to each other involves many issues! It isn't simple!!

What did you MEN discover about listening to your wives? Did it give you new thoughts about this part of your relationship?

What did you LADIES discover about your relationship? Did you see something that you felt was a warning to you?

If you are leading a youth group, make sure they walk through this to learn what the issues are between a husband and wife. Someday they will be establishing their own homes, and knowing these principles now can save great grief in the future, however far away it seems to them.

For each of the **4** categories ask attendees to identify themselves.

Well, what do we know about LISTENING? Really LISTENING is a skill we must learn.

In order to gain total Freedom we must learn to LISTEN to one another; we must learn to LISTEN to the Holy Spirit.

Who has 20-18 correct answers – You are an EXCELLENT listener.

Who has 17-15 correct answers – You are a GOOD listener.

Who has 14-10 correct answers – WHOOPS! LISTEN BETTER – you are a POOR listener.

Who has 9-0 correct answers – UH OH. LISTEN EXTREMELY ATTENTIVELY – you show a marriage in TROUBLE.

EVALUATION SCORE – the score is as follows, be sure copy all 4 evaluations in your notes.

20-18 correct = An excellent listener

17-15 correct = A good listener

14-10 correct = A poor listener

9-0 correct = A marriage in trouble

Exciting isn't it how God wants to improve our lives. God loves us and He wants to improve our marriages.

Listening to your spouse makes for a better marriage. Listening to your children makes for better teenagers.

Listening to colleagues in ministry produces more spiritual results.

Yes, we can enter a whole new lifestyle of God's financial blessings.

3. BASIC INSIGHTS TO UNDERSTAND AND ACT UPON A WIFE'S CAUTIONS

pp. 4–5 > 40 min <

God knew that a MAN all alone cannot make a go of it. The unknown attacks of evil principalities, evil powers, evil rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness are much too subtle for him to win every time, to be a conqueror, to be a victor. (Eph. 6:10-20)

So God graciously provided a helper – the 'Lady in your Life'.

One problem here – sin! Due to sin most husbands ignore their responsibility in preparing, training and enabling their wives to be the full and complete Godly instrument our Father had in mind. Few husbands set out to help their marriage partner become a "*suitable helper*" as God intended. Now if you have a helper who does not know how to help you, the results might just be pretty minimal. To correct that God gave the husband very specific instructions in how to minister to and beautify his wife towards amazing and unheard of results. (see Eph. 5:21-31). God introduces this by saying "wake up, get busy, redeem the time, sing songs, give thanks and be obedient. (Eph. 5:14-21)

So let us just do that with keen ATTENTIVENESS.

Let your group repeat 3 times this application of "Attentiveness".

If you lead a women's or youth group, instead of repeating this specific application, ask them how they can be alert to God's warnings. What means does God use to speak to them?

Cover each of the 7 items individually. If you have ladies in your group ask if these sub points mentioned under each item are true. Do they agree with this representation of their feelings?

After the ladies have given their approval of the text or explained it further ask the MEN if they are present, how they interpret these female expressions and reasonings.

Why is it difficult for MEN to hear/gather/listen/ discern unspoken suggestions from their wives?

A wife throws herself upon her husband's care and expects that he will meet her needs without having to ask for it. But a man is often oblivious to the deep seated needs of his wife. He needs to humble himself and find out from his wife where he is missing the mark.

For each of these 7 points make sure each party – male and female -- writes in some helpful suggestion or what they learned, or what they can practice at home afterward.

ATTENTION FOR LADIES: Before you begin discussing the seven points, if you have a mixed group or a ladies' group, you need to alert the women that this is written specifically towards men. Women may be tempted to feel superior to men or critical of them. That is because we have only **half** of the story here as far as relationships between husbands and wife. So each lady should go through these points examining herself for how she fits into these different points and whether she understands them and feels they are true—if not for herself in every aspect, then in other ladies she has observed. And then, please hold out for them the fact that no husband is perfect. She has a responsibility to support him and help him, but she must put her expectations into the Lord, not into a man, or any person.

4. AS HE RAN PAST HIS WIFE, HE SHOUTED, “HOW DID YOU KNOW?”

p. 6 > 7 min <

You as the Group Guide read this passage to the group out loud. This is an emotional story. Real life is emotional – – very emotional at times. Ask everyone to just close their lessons and listen as you read it.

Make it live, practice at home reading it **2** times out-loud. (This is crucial).

a) *Read it first out loud for your own clear understanding (what was a difficult phrase? What meaning slipped by you?)*

b) *Read it a second time to develop the proper rhythm, intonation, an almost musical cadence, a certain loudness or softness, accentuating with a low bass, indicating a surprise with high pitch note.*

The effect of this type of reading on your hearers will be astounding! Remember Jesus said “MAKE disciples” – not teach or preach. He was a good story teller.

Afterwards ask for testimonies of similar situations they may have been in or heard of.

5. THE WISDOM OF LISTENING TO YOUR WIFE

p. 7 > 8 min <

If people have not read this section ahead of time, read it together asking different ones to read a paragraph. If you are not sure how many have read it, read it. Let the people talk about each of the 4 parts.

Then ask for some of their own beautiful stories with a similar theme. We need to make God's Financial Blessings both real and alive right here and right now in our own church and our own town.

6. LISTENING REQUIRES A ONENESS OF SPIRIT

p. 8 > 20 min <

Most directors do not listen to advice from an assistant, most bosses do not listen to advice from a worker. Most worldly husbands do not ask for or listen to advice from their wives. Most believing husbands have difficulty with this issue.

This is a '*tender home issue*'. But it is very necessary to deal with this if you desire a “*Whole New Lifestyle*” for your people. Ask for frank openness and sharing, but with **humility** and not accusations. Without a lot of interaction within your group, blessings of Financial Freedom will not come.

Focus on how each of these points destroy “oneness” of spirit. If you have both men and women in your group it will be helpful if the women are able to respond to these points in how they are affected emotionally.

As you discuss each point ask what would build oneness of spirit. Sometimes we do not see the obvious, but if these offenses destroy oneness then the opposite should build oneness. For those who are married, ask them to write down two ways they can begin building oneness. Please note that some of these issues work both ways even though the main issue in this section is addressed to men.

LADIES GROUPS:

If you are leading a ladies groups, ALL of the women in your group will understand these offenses whether they have experienced them personally or not. Be very careful that this does not become a gossip session or a man-bashing session. Instead after you have briefly gone over these points turn their attention to how they may be damaging their marriage (or how women can damage their marriage if they are single) and spend time discussing these women issues. The following are some questions you can ask them:

Are you fearful? If you always react with fear, will a husband listen to you?

Are you **always** objecting to what your husband wants to do? Is he hearing more rejection from you than acceptance?

Are you committed to supporting and loving him even if he fails miserably? Or do you always make sure that he knows YOU are right and HE was wrong.

Does your husband listen to you? If not what do you think the problem is—him or you? It is so easy to focus on the other person. What is your attitude toward him? Respectful? Grateful? Supportive? Complaining? Considering yourself superior? Nagging? Fearful?

How often do you pray for your husband? For God to work in his life? For him to be wise?

How often do you bless your husband with your words?

In any case be sure to cover all 10 of these common ailments of our fallen creation.

Close with a time of quiet prayer and self-examination giving them at least 5 minutes and asking them to kneel down humbling themselves before the Lord and asking Him to speak to their hearts.

7. MAKE FINANCIAL DECISIONS TOGETHER

p. 9 > 10 min <

Choose a hypothetical situation—perhaps a husband wanting to take a new job opportunity in another city. Ask the men and women in the group to give their perspective on their feelings or desires in making a decision. If you have only men, or only women, or only unmarried, ask them to put themselves in the place of the “other” person, trying to imagine how they would feel. If you have a youth group, let them do it as a role play seeking to talk openly with each other on their viewpoint.

"Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it."

- Tim Keller (pastor, theologian, Christian apologist)

Personal Commitment to Oneness of Spirit

The commitment this time is specifically for husbands, and definitely for married people. If there are women in your group ask them if they can write their own commitment to have oneness of spirit. Encourage them in this. If you are a woman leader, please write out a commitment ahead of time and share it with them asking them to write it down and sign it personally. With a youth group you can ask them how this kind of commitment would build a solid marriage.

God Himself functions as a Trinity. Scripture everywhere shows that there is communion between the Three-in-One God. Our God is not a Dictator God who is a loner and just follows His own whims and wishes. Everything God manifests rests upon wise counsel, consultation or unity within the Godhead. This is the picture the Creator God designed and desired us to have as husband and wife. Therefore He created us in HIS Own Image / likeness. So let us sign that we will imitate Him.

8. WHO FOLLOWED THE WRONG COUNSEL OF A WIFE?

p. 10 > 5 min < Basic Quiz Number 19

Ask for any comments, then move on.

Answers: 1. **D Ahab** 2. **B Abraham** 3. **A Adam** 4. **C Solomon** 5. **B Abraham** 6. **D Ahab**
7. **C Solomon** 8. **A Adam**

9. WHO GAVE THEIR HUSBANDS WISE COUNSEL?

p. 11 > 10 min < Advanced Quiz Number 19

For each of these 6 points ask for a testimony of having received wise counsel relating to this Biblical example.

Answers: 1. **F Esther** 2. **A Pilate's wife** 3. **B The Shunammite woman** 4. **D Hannah**
5. **C Bathsheba** 6. **E Manoah's wife**

10. WHY WERE THESE WIVES UNABLE TO GIVE WISE COUNSEL?

p. 12 > 10 min < Comprehensive Quiz Number 19

Have you been caught in similar situations? Or do you know of someone in your community who has? Ask for several people to share, but keep them targeted wives giving wise counsel to their husbands.

Answers: 1. **C Abraham and Sarah** 2. **H Isaac and Rebekah** 3. **A Ahab and Jezebel**
4. **G Ahasuerus and Esther** 5. **F Haman and Zeresh** 6. **B Herod and Herodias**
7. **E Ananias and Sapphira** 8. **D Agrippa and Bernice**

Distribute Lesson # 20 and remind everyone to read and fill out this lesson at home prior to the next meeting.

Close in prayer

Lord God Creator, How beautiful You designed all things. How intricate. Not only as male and female, but their deep spiritual unity and oneness. As David said 'how awesome and marvelous' You made us. Enable us to discover the deeper inner sweetness of our spouses. Enable our marriage to become a Holy Trinity of husband, wife, and inseparable sweet unity. This is the peace we crave! To obtain from you the love and respect you intended. We will glorify YOU. Now and Forever, 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