

GOD'S BLESSING OF CHOOSING TO SERVE GOD RATHER THAN MONEY

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Lesson 5



Providing "GOD'S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM"

Thank you for your participation!

Has God been busy revealing Himself strong in your personal life? Jesus has special blessings in store for the families of instructors. Often instructors receive 'a *double portion*' of the blessings they share with their friends. Has each member of your group become a personal friend already? Remember each one is a person, and connected to that person are many other individuals in his circle of influence.

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

What can you do to be better prepared for this lesson? Where did you fall short in preparation last time?

Have you given into the temptation to lecture? Remember: discussion makes it happen.

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

1) **Pray:**

about the 'Great Cloud of Witnesses' that are influenced by your lesson. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you think "souls," "persons," "Individuals". Folks who are preparing now to participate with God through all eternity.

2) **Study** this lesson at home prior to the class meeting

3) **Make** notes and answer all questions on paper.

4) **Over tea share** with a spouse or friend.

5) **Pray:**

God, thank you for the wonderful concept of serving you rather than the devil. How much better can it get? Jesus, you are wonderful. Help me to comprehend just how wonderful you are and pass that on to my students. We all want what is best, Lord, Your best. But we are beleaguered by materialistic temptations. Deliver us, Jesus. Amen

LESSON PRESENTATION

TOTAL anticipated lesson time is 2 hours and 10 minutes

This lesson is based on **discussions**. DO NOT BEGIN BY PRAYER! *Begin with testimonies!*

You the leader want to know if your attendees were thinking about and using Lesson 4 at home.

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 fifth lesson, review the first four lessons through testimonies from your group. Testimonies will bind the group together. Testimonies bring God into the middle of the group.

NOW –

After the testimonies, this is the time for several group members to offer Prayers, Praise, Gratitude and Admiration to the MOST HIGH.

Testimonies first, followed by praise, gratitude and admiration will set a glorious stage for this session

This lesson on learning to serve God in daily life is covered in 8 parts.

Make sure you have a couple extra lessons available in case people forgot to bring theirs, or there is a visitor.

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 receiving God's blessing of Financial Freedom.

At the close pass out Lesson 6 with encouragement to complete it prior to the next session. Review the Great Experiment briefly.

LESSON GUIDE

It is surprisingly easy to become attached to the things the Lord gives to us. In order for God to work through our lives and possessions there comes a time when we need to decide whom we ultimately serve. Surrendering specific areas to God grants Jesus the freedom He desires either to give or to take what He chooses. He then uses those things in greater ways to bring glory to Himself. In the process, we build a life message that can be passed on to further generations. We also escape the tendency of depending upon money for what only God can give. Sacrifice is an act of the heart! In this session we learn about the results of dedicating money, possessions, time and relationships to God.

Choose this day Whom you will serve!

1. CHOOSE TO SERVE GOD RATHER THAN MONEY

pp. 1–2 > 10 min <

JOSHUA – A great conqueror with singleness of heart

Follow Joshua's example! Cover each of these 3 opening Bible verses with one question for the group.

Decision Required (Jos. 24:15)

What new financial pattern will you choose to prove that you serve God rather than money?

Love God (Mat. 6:24)

SOW Love to God – **FIRST** (Mat.6:33) (**HOW?**) – What is the first step in obtaining the blessings of Financial Freedom?

(The 3 bases for finances from lesson one are: 1 _____, 2 Receive, 3 Manage)

What physical activity for a neighbor would prove your priority?

Protection Secured (Jos. 23:3)

HARVEST – Victory is guaranteed

What is your greatest difficulty in believing God wants to give you victory? (i.e. Jesus wants to bless you with Financial Freedom?)

A man could have all the money in all the banks in all the world, and be worth nothing so far as God is concerned, if he were still living "to and for himself"!

~ Major Ian Thomas, Writer and Theological Teacher

2. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU HAVE A LOVE OF MONEY

p. 3 > 10 min < Personal Evaluation

Hopefully each person privately discovered to what extent they have a love for money.

Many other church members have similar experiences to those faced in these questions, but have never related them to their relationship with God. Receiving God's Financial Freedom requires that we be really honest in our evaluations. This will require gut honesty and might be with some hesitation. But unless we know our real selves and see our shortcomings God cannot help us.

As you share the **20** answers people must clearly mark their corrections.

Answers:

1. No 2. Yes 3. No 4. No 5. No 6. No 7. No 8. Yes 9. No 10. No 11. No 12. Yes 13. Yes
14. No 15. No 16. No 17. No 18. Yes 19. No 20. Yes

Have each write down their total score of correct answers.

EVALUATION SCORE – share the 6 evaluation categories.

My friends, let us discover, to what degree have you been troubled with the love of money?

Who has 20 correct answers – raise your hands. WOW! *NO LOVE* of money.

Who has 19-17 correct answers – raise your hands. There is *A BEGINNING LOVE* of money.

Who has 16-14 correct answers – raise your hands. This shows *A GROWING LOVE* for money.

Who has 13-9 correct answers – raise your hands. Here are struggles with *A CONTROLLING LOVE* for money.

If you have 8-4 correct answers – DON'T raise your hands – *A GRIPPING LOVE* for money troubles your life.

I don't think anyone will be tempted to raise their hands if they have 3-0 correct answers – This is the last and lowest one – You are attacked with *A FATAL LOVE* for money.

I will now repeat the Evaluation Score so you can copy these **6** categories in your notes.

20 correct = No love of money

19-17 correct = A beginning love of money

16-14 correct = A growing love of money

13-9 correct = A controlling love of money

8-4 correct = A crippling love of money

3-0 correct = A fatal love of money

3. THE WITNESS OF GOD AGAINST THOSE WHO TRIED TO SERVE GOD AND MONEY

pp. 4–6 > 40 min <

Cover each of these 10 points by reading them and discussing them thoroughly.

Solicit participation from each group member. (Limit vocal ones or ones who always answer first. Encourage the slower or more timid ones)

Probe, guide, ask, encourage, but do not enter the discussion unless a dilemma occurs. You – the leader – should be the referee, not the player.

NOTE: Each point must culminate by answering the two following questions relating to your groups's present lives.

- 1) Share a comparable example of someone who attempted to serve **2** Masters and failed. This will take a lot of thought if your group has not read through the lesson ahead. **THIS** is a time you might need to share with illustrations/examples of someone who has failed. They do not have to be personal acquaintances. It might be someone you read about.
- 2) Based upon these two failures – the Biblical one and the present-day one – how must we choose whom we will serve ? (What mistakes can we avoid?)

4. HOW TO SERVE GOD RATHER THAN MONEY

pp. 7–8 > 20 min <

THIS IS THE PERSONAL PRAYER PART OF THIS LESSON. (Everyone needs to deal seriously and in-depth with this part in order to be able to act upon **LESSON 6**.)

God's way of Financial Freedom is a Whole New Lifestyle – His Financial Freedom is based on trusting that He, God, is good and that JESUS can only do good (Rom 8:22). The whole issue is to let God be the manager of your life. He wishes to provide you with financial freedom, peace, contentment, etc., all of which comes by Godliness.

Have three different people read these **3** parts.

Then have the group disperse – (outside, to other rooms, in separate parts of the auditorium, etc.)

Have them take their lesson and pen.

This is a very private prayer time!!!

People should **kneel down** and pray.

During their prayer they should, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, mark their points of surrender / dedication.

Give the group 15 minutes for prayer, meditation and decision.

Call the group together and move on to the next section.

5. CHOOSE TO SERVE GOD

p. 9 > 15 min <

The first section on this page is about Nicodemus. Nicodemus had confessed his sin; he was definitely a believer in God; most likely he was baptized; he was one of the church leaders; yet Jesus said something more had to happen to him. Many of us also need something MORE from the Lord.

Have 8 different people read one of these verses and then repeat it in contemporary Ukrainian as used in your home town.

Listen closely to hear that they are not just repeating the original text. If so, have them attempt it again.

Signature

PLEASE NOTE: There are two parts to sign for the personal commitment this time.

Signing the '**Personal Commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ**' is optional.

But if a believer is on fire for his Lord he most likely will want to sign it as a confirmation of his renewed priority.

Personal Commitment to Serve God Rather Than Money

Lesson 5 is step 5. As we move on to discover more about God's ways of Financial Freedom we will need to make additional decisions to form partnerships with God about our financial operations.

Prior to this we mostly handled our daily financial lives by ourselves.

Now we make God our partner and begin to operate as a two-some.

It is similar to moving from being single to being married!

6. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP TO GOD?

p. 10 >10 min< Basic Quiz Number 5

This is a quiz activity for the whole group.

After checking the home completion provide a review of the 9 answers:

1. E Scriptural Principles 2. G Steward 3. I Take or Leave 4. B Supernaturally 5. A Commands 6. H An Account 7. D First 8. J Die Emotionally 9. F Abraham 10. C The Lord

Provide **5 minutes** time for private reflection. As they reflect on each point ask them to mark each of the 9 points with a **“+”** or a **“?”**

- The plus indicates total agreement.
- The question mark indicates 'I need more time to come to this conclusion'.

DO NOT force people to make these decisions – (Spiritual growth is unequal and private).

Have a prayer requesting Holy Spirit guidance to agree with point 10.

Should some not be ready to transfer ownership to God, do not let others coerce them.

This is about Financial Freedom – it is an inward choice – not coercion. Coercion only produces outward agreement, but it does not produce inward change.

7. WHOSE CHOICES FREED GOD TO WORK SUPERNATURALLY?

p. 11 > 10 min < Advanced Quiz Number 5

Most answers are pretty self-explanatory. Have people call out their answers to these 8 questions.

Insist that responses include the name and reference.

Now double check by each individual for any wrong answers they might have.

If needed repeat the answers as follows:

1. G Moses 2. D The Lad with the loaves and fishes 3. A The Widow of Zarephath 4. F Solomon 5. C Ruth 6. H Hannah 7. E Barnabas 8. B The widow at the Treasury

Ask several individuals which of the 8 points was most valuable to them; and WHY?

What practical application does he/she see here for next 6 months in his life?

8. WHOSE LIFE GOALS WERE GREATER THAN MONEY?

p. 12 > 15 min < Comprehensive Quiz Number 5

Ask if there are any questions or comments regarding their home responses to these 8 points.

After that share the answers as follows:

1. C Nehemiah 2. G David 3. E Moses 4. B Noah 5. H Jeremiah 6. F Paul 7. A Luke 8. D Samuel

Ask which of the 8 points was most valuable to them; and WHY?

Then for each point ask one or more individuals to supply a present day example from their community.

What practical application do you see here for the next 6 months in your life?

Distribute Lesson # 6 and instruct that this lesson be read and the Personal Evaluation be filled out at home prior to the next meeting. They should do Basic Quiz Number 6 with their children. And ask them when they do Advanced Quiz Number 6, as they answer each question to breathe a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God for what He has done for them.

SUGGESTION: Challenge each person privately to discover what tithing is all about. A lot of incorrect information has circulated among our brothers and sisters. Many of our members think very negatively about tithing. Is God really greedy? Is God really deceitful? Tithing is a weekly reminder for us about God's wonderful generosity to us. Tithing is a physical love token of our heart's gratitude.

Close in prayer–

Thank you Jesus for these wonderful Bible men and women who had greater goals than money. Personally, Lord, as leader of this group I would like to join these Bible heroes. I ask you Holy Spirit to lead my friends here to establish such higher goals too. God and Father we are anticipating Your supernatural workings amongst us. Give us faith to receive your miracles, to recognize your miracles, and to manage your miracles. In the name of the Holy Trinity, 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