

GOD'S BLESSING OF AVOIDING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Lesson 13



Providing "GOD'S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM"

Promises, promises, promises. Have you ever been plagued by promises?

Your own, those of others? Those you must keep? Those broken and dashed hopes?

Partnerships are all about – promises!

But you by bringing God's Financial Freedom help people develop discernment and convictions.

What great service you are rendering.

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

You should be very familiar by now with the **6** steps you should take during your lesson preparation so--we are going to condense them to **4**:

1) **Pray**

(from the above) "Providing a new lifestyle and role of promises in our lives."

2) **Study** the Lesson along with the Lesson Guide.

3) **ALWAYS** verbally **discuss** the material with a spouse or friend. It helps to formulate your thoughts and anticipate things that might come up as you lead your group.

4) **Pray**

Lord God my Great Shepherd, our people are suffering, our people are confused, our people need deliverance. Help me to be a Moses to lead them out of darkness into light. Set my people free, Good Shepherd. Bring financial salvation! Glorify Yourself! Amen

LESSON PRESENTATION

TOTAL anticipated lesson time is 2 hours

Begin with PRAYER TIME –

Oh God our Creator, Let us esteem friends, family and others by protecting them. Show us ways to honor and respect them and keep them from bad business deals and devastating partnerships. Honor and enlarge our testimony by helping us to stay clean of all such entanglements which satan foists on us.

Amen and praise to You. So be it!

This lesson is covered in 8 parts.

Be well prepared to focus in on discussion questions that will speak most effectively to your group. Depending on the area you live in and who is in your group, focus on Biblical applications they can make—right here, right now.

You are going to have to work to keep everyone involved. The topic itself may not seem relevant to many in your group. We see the word “business” and think, but I’m not a businessman. However you will see a lot of applications in this lesson from the Bible that are outside of what we would normally think of as business. There are good examples and bad examples. So keep people engaged in examining the Bible which is able to shine truth into their lives in the areas needed.

Also note that the lesson is very strong that business partnerships should be avoided totally. You may not find substantial reason Biblically to rule out all partnerships but, nevertheless, the dangers that are covered are very real. If anyone goes into a partnership they should have their eyes open to the risks and pitfalls. (Do not let this become a legalistic thing of saying that anyone who goes into partnership is in sin.)

At the close pass out Lesson 14

LESSON GUIDE

God wants every man to have the freedom to follow Him. You may be a farmer, lawyer, factory worker, doctor, accountant or mechanic. But the direction of the Lord and the personal convictions through which He gives that direction must control the financial decisions you make for yourself. Partnerships (as well as stock market investments and other types of alliances) interfere with this design of God. It forces other associates involved to share in the chastening of one person. It doesn't matter how well partners may think they know one another, Scripture still warns of the danger associated with sharing the name, reputation and resources God has entrusted to us as individual stewards accountable to Him. The insights this lesson bring to bear on this subject will help you know what to do. Whether you are already experiencing the entanglement of a partnership or are looking for the Biblical basis on which to stand alone in the modern day identity crisis of the business world, the Holy Spirit is there to guide.

1. AVOID BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

pp. 1–2 > 10 min <

DANIEL – The most influential political advisor in history

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

He made wise decisions based on Godly convictions – (Dan. 1:8)

*What **Godly** convictions do you have (or that you have developed during this course) that help you make wise financial decisions?*

Cultivate an excellent spirit – (1 Cor. 16:13)

What does it mean to have an “excellent spirit” (like Daniel)?

He was greatly honored by God – (Dan. 6:3)

How did Daniel display an excellent spirit?

2. HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS?

p. 3 > 10 min < Personal Evaluation

Have each person discover how well they understand partnerships.

Check to see if they understood these questions, but do not be surprised if they argue about some of the answers. If they do not agree tell them to think about those questions as you cover the lesson. All of the answers are found in there. However—they may still not agree! (Please note on question 4 the answer is false. The term “agreements” is general, not a partnership. So they could agree to import or export or other things. God did not prohibit that.)

Share the **20** answers:

Answers:

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

Ask everyone to write down their total score of correct answers and then share the evaluation categories.

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

Who has 20-18 correct answers – clap your hands – You have an EXCELLENT understanding

Who has 17-14 correct answers – thumbs-up – You have a GOOD understanding.

Who has 13-10 correct answers – clap your hands – It indicates an AVERAGE understanding.

Who has 9-7 correct answers – wiggle your hands – It indicates a POOR understanding.

Who has 6-0 correct answers – pat the table – you are VULNERABLE.

EVALUATION SCORE – the score is as follows.

20-18 correct = Excellent

17-14 correct = Good

13-10 correct = Average

9-7 correct = Poor

6-0 correct = Vulnerable

We will not have a discussion at this moment, but move on with the material.

3. DEFINITION OF A BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

p. 4 > 10 min <

Ask which business relationships are most common.

Ask which business relationships have a negative Biblical example. (The first 2)

Did you look up the Bible verses at home? Did you think of other examples for any of the relationships, whether Biblical or otherwise? Ask a couple people to share.

Ask if anyone desires prayer about a stressful business relationship. Stop and pray for them.

4. EIGHT DANGERS IN BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

p. 5–8 > 35 min <

Read, then study each of these 8 dangers. Let one person highlight what the Bible says about that difficulty. Then ask others to explain or enlarge upon that danger.

Next ask someone to apply it to a situation in your church, your town, or some other present day Ukrainian situation. (Make sure this does not become gossip.)

5. GET OUT OF A WRONG BUSINESS PARTNERSHP

p. 9 > 15 min <

PRAYER TIME FOR THIS SESSION. Use these 6 points for group prayer. Ask different ones to lead out on each point. Should your friends prefer to have an individual prayer time, accommodate them with that.

Partnerships are a common form of pressure, especially among family and relatives. Through marriage children may impose upon parents to get involved in a business situation. It is common for people to pressure relations into loaning money, or “investing” in an opportunity. Some in your group either have had business relationship pressures, even if it is not an official partnership, or will have in the future.

Personal Commitment to Avoid Partnerships

Make your decision NOW. Sign your Biblical commitment to Jesus Christ. Then devise several ways to deal with approaches and pressures about a partnership. How will you respect, honor, encourage, and help a relative or friend without getting involved in a partnership? Prepare NOW!

6. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS TRUE AND FALSE ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS?

p. 10 > 10 min < Basic Quiz Number 13

Go over the answers. Clear up misunderstandings. Let others in the group share their understanding with those who experience confusion.

Answers:

All are true.

7. WHOSE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS DID NOT WORK?

p. 11 > 20 min < Advanced Quiz Number 13

Make sure everyone got the right answers.

What do each of these mistakes teach? How can we avoid the same mistakes? How can we learn to use this error to our advantage? What preparation should we take in advance in order not to drown in a sudden unexpected compromise when we are pressured? What was probably the most common error in all of these examples? (Lack of faith in God)

How much are you willing to trust God rather than figuring it out on your own? Help people to discover better alternatives. Many people are lured into some form of partnership. Let's make it our goal to understand the principles and reasons, God's desire, and what the Holy Scriptures teach. Let's walk by faith and look to His promises!

"We understand why in the Bible repentance precedes faith. Before people find their need -- love met in God, they are looking to other things, often money, for satisfaction. So believing in God has to involve a 180-degree turn away (that is, repentance) from the love of money to find contentment and confidence for the future simply in knowing God and depending on His promises."

- Daniel Fuller, seminary professor, author

Answers:

- 1) E. Asa and Ben-Hadad 2) D. Jehoshaphat and Ahab 3) A. Jacob and Laban
4) B. Abraham and Lot 5) F Solomon and Pharaoh 6) C Israel and Gibeonites

8. CAN YOU PRECISELY IDENTIFY BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS?

p. 12 > 10 min < Comprehensive Quiz Number 13

This is another opportunity to see the examples in Scripture that relate to business relationships. It will give a review of these relationships and further solidify understanding.

Answers:

1. The vineyard owner, B 2. King David, F 3. Gentile Churches, D 4. King Jehoshaphat, H
5. King Ahab, G 6. Barnabas, E 7. Rulers in Jerusalem, C 8. Joseph, A

Distribute Lesson # 14 and request that this lesson be read and filled out at home prior to the next meeting. Ask them to fill out the Personal Evaluation before they read the rest of the lesson. The Basic Quiz is excellent to do with children as a fun activity. This lesson covers "Slothfulness", so encourage them that if they are all industrious at home, especially reading through pp. 9-12. If they are diligent—then you can promise to make Lesson 14 the shortest lesson of all.

Close in prayer

Oh Designer God, You designed each one of us differently. You the Great Creator made each of us unique so you could love us and bless us individually. You wish to restore, heal, anoint, and challenge each of us. Help us not to stray into the many varieties of worldly entanglements. There are so many things that can hinder us. Lead us not into temptation. We pray LORD, make Your face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. LORD lift up Your countenance upon us, and give us peace. Then we will put Your name upon our children; and You will bless them.

(Num. 6:25-27)

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