

GOD'S BLESSING OF CHOOSING A GOOD NAME WHATEVER THE COST

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Lesson 17



Providing "GOD'S NEW LIFESTYLE OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM"

Through your faithfulness as a Group Guide your good name has been enhanced in God's Kingdom.

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

You are a flower of beautiful fragrance in God's local community. Share your lifestyle!

THE LEADER'S HOME PREPARATION

With all this experience sharing and applying 16 lessons it is time now to look beyond the horizon of F.F.

Would you feel comfortable now to use this method of discussion in the future with other groups, courses, lessons?

What have you found are the advantages and disadvantages of using discussion to communicate truth into the lives of people?

Follow these **5** steps for lesson preparation:

1) **Pray**

Lord, I can't comprehend the impact and riches of a good name – seeking to be holy in Your eyes and to bring You glory. Yet it is true – I see it in 2 Peter. 1:3, in 1 Peter 2:9. Lord, help me to lead these people to such holiness, to such a reputation. Amen.

2) **Read, study, prepare** this lesson well enough ahead of time that you will be saturated with the truths.

3) **Phone** every person in your group –

a) Ask them about their wellbeing.

b) Thank them for participating in these lessons and ask what has been a highlight to them.

c) Ask if they have any special prayer need.

d) Share a Bible verse.

e) Close with a short prayer.

4) **Discuss** the material with a spouse or friend. Don't skip this step. Every lesson is different and it is so helpful to walk through it verbally with someone else before you lead a group.

5) **Pray**

Dear Lord Jesus would you work in my heart as well as my group members? Do not pass me by. Visit our church in an abundant way, Lord God. Your financial freedom – 16 steps already – a Good Name – a whole new lifestyle. It is truly overwhelming. O Holy Spirit, please come and accomplish this in us. Amen.

LESSON PRESENTATION

TOTAL anticipated lesson time is 2 hours and 10 minutes

As you read and think and plan, make sure that the questions you ask and the discussions you have in your group will open their minds to how each one of them can work on having a good name, whatever their position in life. It is not just businessmen who need good names. To the glory of Christ, we all do. Don't lecture, discuss.

Begin with testimonies! What is our living God doing in the lives of the members of your group? Include in this time reports from those who did good deeds in the community, with or without their family.

PRAYER TIME – Lord, we will learn about having a 'Good Name' today. We have actually already been learning many things about God's Financial Freedom that will improve our reputation and give glory to You if we do them. A good name involves not only doing things well and honestly, but with an attitude of joy and thanksgiving. Make this a personal desire, Lord. Yes, we need this in our homes. Come Jesus, inspire and enable us. AMEN

This lesson is covered in 10 parts.

At the close pass out Lesson 18.

LESSON GUIDE

A business (or a church) is as strong as the reputation of integrity behind it. And the most valuable asset we could ever have is a good name (Proverbs 22:1). A good name is a reputation on which others can depend to represent what is legally and morally right. This lesson so richly illustrates this message. God often waits on the other side of a compromise to do something supernatural when we decide to reject compromise and to stand alone for what He says is right, whatever the cost. We may determine to take a corporate (with our family, our church, our community) stand against corruption, immorality and abortion. We can make a personal choice to gain a clear conscience and make restitution for dishonesty in the past. In all cases God will write the last chapter and He will show Himself strong when our motive is to guard His name.

1. CHOOSE A GOOD NAME WHATEVER THE COST

pp. 1–2 > 10 min <

ZACHAEUS – A great restorer of funds

Follow Zacchaeus' example of seeking a good name! Cover each of these 3 opening Bible verses with some questions for the group.

Public Rejection – (Luke 19:2-7)

Why was Zacchaeus rejected by the people?

The value of a good name – (Prov. 22:1)

Have you ever been tempted to be “slightly” dishonest to make some kind of financial gain? Do you think it is difficult to value honesty more than an increase in money? Why?

Public Restitution – (Luke 19:8)

Why did Zacchaeus make such a statement of how he would right any wrongs he had done? Does God want us to make restitution if we have wronged someone, even in a way we might consider insignificant?

2. HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT A GOOD NAME?

p. 3 > 10 min < PERSONAL EVALUATION

If everyone has filled out the personal evaluation already, share the answers.

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

Did any of the answers surprise you?

Have each write down their total score of correct answers.

Next share the **3** evaluation categories.

Well, what did you discover about having a GOOD NAME?

Who has 20-18 correct – THUMBS-UP – You have a GOOD understanding

Who has 17-10 correct – WIGGLE YOUR HAND – You have a FAIR understanding.

Who has 9-0 correct – THINK HARD! – It indicates a POOR understanding.

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

20-18 correct = Good understanding

17-10 correct = Fair understanding

9-0 correct = Poor understanding

Let us get busy discovering all about a Good Name.

3. WHY A GOOD NAME IS ESSENTIAL

p. 4 > 10 min <

Have everyone read the definition of a good name out loud.

Next solicit a simple explanation by group members, an illustration, or short discussion on these 4 points.

You have 10 parts in this lesson. Prior to beginning each new part repeat the definition of a good name each time.

4. BASIC REQUIREMENTS TO EARN A GOOD NAME

pp. 5–6 > 20 min <

Ask someone to read the definition of a good name from page 4.

Ask if they looked at the blanks and tried to fill them out at home. Discuss each of the six requirements for earning a good name. Focus on these practical lists in which they are asked to evaluate their own performance in that area. Was this an eye opener to them? What did they learn about themselves? Do they have a new understanding of what all is involved in having a good name?

Youth groups: Your young people may not have much experience in some of these areas. Make sure they get the impact of each area and spend time talking about point number 6 and the importance of who they spend most of their time with.

If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of me.

~~Dwight L. Moody

~~Dwight L. Moody

5. THREE FACTORS BEHIND A GOOD NAME

pp. 7–8 > 20 min <

Ask a different person to read the definition of a good name from page 4.

Complete the “Test of Motives” as a group. Ask them to give an honest response to the “test”. More is learned not from reading a lesson, but active community involvement by members. Such sharing produces a fellowship, an openness and unity that flows over in many other parts of church life. That is the reason you are asked to be a guide and not a lecturer.

Do the same for “Measuring Priorities”. Ask them what area of priority they find weakest in their personal lives. If you have a ladies group there are items under the family that are not their specific responsibility (NO, it is NOT their responsibility to nag their husbands!) Ask for suggestions from them of what they personally, as wives and mothers, should be doing to show family priorities. For youth groups, have them think of how they should be giving priority to their family, WHY they should give priority to it, right now as a young person. How can they actively participate, regardless of whether their family are believers or not. Some day they will have their own families and it will take a different priority than now, but they should consider its importance as well as God and others.

Ask each person to draw their own circle and divide it into 3 parts. Representing as good as possible as how they perceive of their life priorities right now.

6. SATAN’S METHOD OF DESTROYING A MAN’S NAME – – –

pp. 9–10 > 20 min <

Ask someone to read the definition of a good name from page 4.

Is this section shocking to you ladies?

This portrays a MEN’s world! – !! This is real!!

The word here is **COMPROMISE**

Most MEN – even church leaders – are engaged in compromises on perhaps as frequently as a daily basis. Misusing money in tiny ways is too frequent among spiritual workers. MEN need the help and protection of their wives. Did God intend for wives to be a helper? Wonder why!

For good discussion divide your group into men and women and discuss the issues that are most relevant to them. Ask for people to share what compromises they have had to face and how they handled it (or didn't).

Ladies: The illustrations in the lesson focus on business compromises. But what compromises are you tempted to make? Is it okay if a clerk in a store gives you too much change and you just accept it? Of course compromise affecting our good name is not only with finances. We can compromise in other areas of our lives too.

Youth groups: What are the compromises they are called on to make? Paying for a good grade at school/college/university? Is gaining a better grade important for your good name? What does God think about these things?

7. RESTORE A GOOD NAME

p. 11 > 15 min <

Ask everyone to read together the definition of a good name from page 4.

THIS IS OUR PRAYER TIME FOR THIS SESSION.

Read together the 4 steps to restore a good name.

We want to have a time of kneeling before God and asking Him to examine our actions, our thoughts and our motives. Ask Him to bring to mind any way you have wronged someone. Purpose to ask their forgiveness and make it right. We will spend 5 minutes in quiet and prayer. AMEN!

Personal Commitment to a Good Name

Now before we sign let us read this Personal Commitment to a Good Name together. (Ask someone to read it or read it yourself.) If you agree with this and want to make this commitment sign it now. And if you know you have things to make right with other people—put a date in by which you will have cleared all of that up! Don't make a far distant date. Make it soon.

What joy to gain more of God's financial freedom – The Joy of the Lord is your Strength. (Neh. 8:10)

8. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO EARN A GOOD NAME?

p. 12 > 5 min < Basic Quiz Number 17

Ask two people to read together the definition of a good name from page 4

Share the answers and clarify any misunderstandings. Ask them to use it at home with their children or family to talk about what is important to God.

Answers: 1.D 2.F 3.B 4.C 5.A 6.E

9. WHO IN THE BIBLE HAD A GOOD NAME?

p. 13 > 10 min < Advanced Quiz Number 17

Ask a volunteer to read the definition of a good name from page 4

Upon completion or home review, ask:

Why was it important that these men have a good name? Why is it important that YOU have a good name?

Answers:

1. **C** Cornelius 2. **B** Stephen 3. **A** Timothy 4. **E** Demetrius 5. **F** Titus' friend 6. **D** Ananias

10. DO YOU COMPREHEND THE FULL SCOPE OF A GOOD NAME?

p. 14 > 10 min < Comprehensive Quiz Number 17

Does anyone have the definition of a Good Name memorized? Please say it for us.

Share the answers together for this quiz.

Answers:

1. **J** Gentle 2. **C** Temperate 3. **F** Hospitable 4. **L** Free from the love of money 5. **O** Not a new convert
6. **G** Able to teach 7. **H** Not addicted to wine 8. **B** Husband of one wife 9. **M** Manages his household well
10. **N** Children under control 11. **A** Above reproach 12. **K** Peaceable 13. **P** Good reputation with those outside the church
14. **E** Respectable 15. **I** Not pugnacious 16. **D** Prudent

Clear up any misunderstandings of definitions. This is a list of God's standard for church leaders. This is what all of us should work toward whether we ever become a "church" leader or not, because all of us should be spiritual leaders. We all have influence on other people. God has a high standard for His leaders, but that does not mean that we are to be their critics when they don't measure up. Instead we need to look to how we measure up in God's eyes, and commit ourselves to more prayer for our leaders.

Ask each person to choose one characteristic they feel is difficult for them. What could they do to improve in that area?

Distribute Lesson 18 and encourage them to fill out as much as they can at home prior to the next meeting.

Close in prayer

A Good Name! How precious Lord Jesus. Thank you for being a living Example of 'how' in the 4 Gospels. Thank you for showing us 'how' in this lesson. Now Holy Spirit we look to You to guide and mold us after the Image of Jesus. Thank You Heavenly Father for the very many promises in the New Testament that we are Holy Ones – no longer sinners. Thank You for power to be Holy. Thank You for the power to overcome sin and live victoriously. Hallelujah to You, our Triune God. 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