

*Marriage
Is A
Ministry*

Session Five

What Is Godly Leadership?

Marriage Is A Ministry

What Is Godly Leadership?

Jesus called you knowing everything about you (see Psalm 139:1-18 & Mat 10:30)

2 Timothy 1:9 *“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,”*

He saved you: _____

He has called us all unto a Holy calling: _____

Not according to our works: _____

But according to His own purpose and grace: _____

Not in our own power but in His power: _____

Philippians 1:6 *“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”*

Being confident means: _____

Mark 11:22-24 *So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”*

The key to being a leader/overseer of your family is by believing the promises of God yourself, denying who we were in the past (our own ways) and abiding in Jesus daily.

Matthew 16:24 *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”*

Ephesians 1:3-4 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,”*

He chose you and promises to give you all you will need to fulfill His calling upon your life.

1Corinthians 6:20 *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

Genesis 2:18 *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”*

A helper = an assistant. This is God's design.

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God established the authority in our family.

1 Corinthians 11:3 *“But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”*

Colossians 3:18-21 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”*

God – Man – Woman – Children

How Has God Told Us To Lead?

1. **2 Timothy 2:24-25** *“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,”*

As a servant: _____

Gentle to all: _____

Able to teach: _____

With patience: _____

In humility: _____

Correcting those in opposition: _____

God’s judgment for not embracing His authority structure is clear.

Romans 13:1-2 *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”*

2. As overseers we are priests also.

Ephesians 5:26 *“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,”*

A father is to lead in the training of his children. _____

Ephesians 6:4 *“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”*

1 Timothy 3:4 *“one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence”*

To Rule = To Manage

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***Ephesians 5:25-26** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*

Have you ever considered yourself a priest? Your family is your congregation.

- 1) Daily devotion _____
- 2) Being an example _____
- 3) Prayer with your wife and children at home daily _____
- 4) Discipling your children _____
- 5) Family is in church _____
- 6) Financial stewardship _____

3. A Provider

***1 Timothy 5:8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Let your Lord set your priorities, not your flesh.

***Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*

It takes time to be a godly leader.

***Matthew 6:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

***2 Peter 1: 1-4** "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

***Hebrews 13:20-21** "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."*

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HOMEWORK SECTION

FOR

Session Five

What Is Godly Leadership?

SESSION FIVE HOMEWORK DESCRIPTIONS

Each piece of the homework is important to the progress of any disciple. Remember, a true disciple of Christ is not simply trying to acquire intellectual knowledge; a true disciple invests himself/herself to learn and to live according to the principles God teaches in His Word. Your investment in learning and living according to the principles God reveals to you through this material will transform your life as God desires.

1. **Worksheet for the husbands only on pages 31 – 32, *Helping You Become A Godly Leader*.**

Many husbands find themselves willing to step into the role of leader in their home only when their wife is in agreement and only in those areas she permits. Many husbands are ignorant to God's plan and promises for them so they are not convinced that God really has called them to lead, especially when they have a wife that is resistant to such leadership. This worksheet will clear up any confusion about God's plan and promises, but a husband must believe in order to receive. He must be willing to follow God's plan, resting in His promises, executing God's will growing in the character of Jesus Christ even if his wife is slow to adapt to God's plan. A husband must trust God's Word in order to properly lead his family, not his own emotions, beliefs or the temperament of his wife.

2. **Worksheet for all disciples on pages 33 – 34, *Common Reasons We Fail*.**

Many husbands are unaware of the reasons they fail to lead as God commands, or to love their wives and meet her unique companionship needs. Many wives are unaware of the reasons they fail to accept God's plan for leadership in the home, or to love her husband and meet his unique companionship needs. This worksheet will help expose the tactics of the enemy and the possible strongholds that have hindered many disciples from accepting God's purposes for marriage. In either case the result is disciples not diligently investing themselves in fulfilling God's plan thereby permitting their flesh to reign in particular circumstances. The conclusion of this exercise will reveal to each disciple that God will test and refine us by bringing or permitting trials in our lives to both reveal our sin and transform us.

3. We encourage wives to review once again the principles taught on page 22 for affirming her husband without regard to his following the Word of God. Remember, unless a husband is asking something of his wife that is in direct conflict with a specific scriptural command she needs to prayerfully comply.

4. Everyone to continue in his or her daily abiding devotion to Jesus Christ and continue to build his or her strong foundation.

5. Continue to use the Breaking the Cycle of Unloving Communication worksheet each time there is unloving communication.

6. Both husbands and wives should be praying about and diligently working toward improving on meeting their spouse's companionship needs. They should continue referring back to the worksheets on pages 23, 23A, 27 & 27A in order to be intentional about meeting each others companionship needs. When they have improved in the first areas of focus, they should work on the other areas that were graded less than a 5 by their spouse until there are no grades less than a 5.

Remember:

- God blesses obedience.
- Our faithfulness in completing all of the homework is the beginning of a truly wonderful relationship with our spouse in Christ.
- Our transformation happens only as we abide in Him. This means our daily devotions and our obedience to His Word, including confession and repentance of our mistakes, are critical to this process.
- To see Jesus work miracles, the disciples had to follow Him.

SESSION FIVE HOMEWORK DESCRIPTIONS

Remember, practicing loving communication and biblical forgiveness and reconciliation are the tools God uses to break up the hardened soil of our hearts and our spouse's heart so His Word and grace can have the impact He desires. He will have victory if we will come to Him, hear Him and do what He says.

A suggestion for anyone that does not yet practice daily devotions is to use a workbook that interacts with the Bible, like ***The Biblical Principles for a Strong Foundation***. This topical workbook teaches from the Bible using a structure that encourages daily reading of the Word and journaling. It challenges the disciple using scriptural references and quotes from well known Bible teachers whose lives exemplify their messages. You may obtain a copy of the workbook, ***The Biblical Principles for a Strong Foundation*** from your leader who has it on a PC disc in the *Marriage is a Ministry* DVD kit.

You may also email us at www.parentingministry.org with your questions.

Marriage Is A Ministry - Homework

Read the verses below and answer the following questions.

2 Peter 1:2-11 *“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

1. Do you believe God has given you exceedingly great and precious promises? List the promises God has given you. *Example: Salvation, all your sins forgiven, etc.*

Here are some verses to help you.

Psalms 73:23-24 ♦ Psalms 91:1-2 ♦ Psalms 103:8-18 ♦ Proverbs 3:5-6 ♦ Matthew 11:28-30 ♦ Romans 8:28-39 ♦ 1 Corinthians 10:13 ♦ 2 Corinthians 5:17 ♦ 2 Corinthians 9:8 ♦ Ephesians 6:10-12 ♦ Philippians 4:6-7 ♦ Titus 3:4-6 ♦ James 1:2-4 ♦ 1 Peter 5:6-7

2. By His divine nature we are courageous, victorious, and able to do His will and become the leaders, husbands, and fathers He has called us to be (*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phi 4:13*). Not by our power for there is nothing good in us (*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5*). It is by His grace alone are we able to do this (*So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." John 20:21*). Use the lines below and thank the Lord for this promise.

Marriage Is A Ministry - Homework

3. In *2 Peter 1:5* it says that we are to *add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge*, etc. This word: add is our part. We have to make a decision and commit to learning the things of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Write out your prayerful commitment to begin this pursuit.

4. The attributes mentioned in *2 Peter 1:5-7* are gifts of the Holy Spirit for you: *faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love*. These things will manifest themselves in and through us as we daily abide in Him. Tell the Lord how you desire these precious gifts using the lines below.

5. Is there anything that is hindering you from embracing God's calling upon your life to be the leader, husband and father that God has called you to be? Yes No
If yes, please explain. _____

6. Are you willing to invest yourself to be disciplined by another brother that is willing to spend the time necessary to teach you to walk as leader and priest in your home?

Yes No If no, please explain: _____

If yes, please write your name and telephone number on a separate piece of paper and give it to your small group discipler so someone from our fellowship can contact you to begin.

7. Thank the Lord in prayer for His provision of a capable discipler and ask Him to give you the grace to invest yourself and apply yourself to learning to become the leader and priest He has called you to be. You may wish to review *How to Develop Intimacy With God Through Daily Devotions* on page 6 of the first weeks handouts.

Marriage Is A Ministry - Homework

The Bible tells us that there are some common reasons that men do not lead as God desires or women do not affirm their husbands as God desires. Their stumbling block or stronghold can be one or more of those listed below. If the Lord speaks to you in any of these areas, take time to confess it to Him and ask Him to strengthen you to abide in Him to fulfill His call upon your life. Write your confessions and prayers in the space provided in each area, if applicable.

1. Unforgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

Forgiveness does not mean:

- That the offender agrees with you that what they did was wrong.
- That the offender asks for your forgiveness.
- That the offender accepts your forgiveness.
- That the relationship has to be or will be restored.

2. Deception - Satan attacks our minds to get us to disobey Christ and doubt who we are in Him

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"*

Satan uses these common weapons against us:

- He lies to get us to doubt the promises of God - Read John 8:44
- Condemnation or accusations against others or ourselves - Read Revelation 12:9,10
- Looking back at our past instead of who we are in Christ - Read 2Corinthians 5:17-21

3. Persecution - Are you ready and willing to be patient with your spouse as you and your spouse work toward making these changes?

Matthew 5:43-48

- _____ your enemies.
- _____ those who curse you.
- _____ to those who hate you.
- _____ for those who spitefully use and persecute you.

1 Peter 2:20-21 *"For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps"*

Marriage Is A Ministry - Homework

4. Selfishness – Remember it is not our way, but His. Not our timing, but His. Press on!

1 Corinthians 13:5 “...does not seek its own...”

Luke 9:23 “Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Luke 14:26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”

Satan desires to derail your focus and attention from the priorities of God to things not of God; your past failures, the world or yourself and your wants.

God Tests Us

1 Thessalonians 2:4 ‘But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”

God Refines Us

Malachi 3:3 “He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.”

God tells us that He tests our hearts and He will refine us through the process of purification. He tells us that this is a process, not a one-time event. As His testings reveal the sin in us, and our spouse, He desires that we would confess our sin to Him and commit ourselves to abide in Him daily as we deny our sinful ways and learn from Him to follow Him. Our part is to daily commit ourselves to Him and His Word, and to humbly come to Him in prayer to ask Him to transform us as we abide in Him. As we walk in obedience to His word, He will do the work of transformation in us so we can glorify Him by loving our spouse and meeting his/her unique companionship needs as He designed us to do.

God does not say that we are perfect because we do everything perfectly, but we are perfect when walk with a heart perfectly fixed on Him.

Psalms 101:2c “I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.”

A “perfect heart” is a heart firmly directed toward God and motivated by love to walk in a manner pleasing to Him in all our ways. In this we glorify Him. Write a prayer to ask the Lord to give you a “perfect heart” to walk within your house as He has called you to walk.

Be patient. Don’t get discouraged. Commit yourself daily to be transformed by His Word and His Spirit. Take responsibility when you fail and watch what God does.

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Appendices

- ***Starting Over (Session #6)***
- ***Disciple Self-Evaluation Checklist (Session #7)***
- ***Comment Form (Session #7)***

APPENDICES HOMEWORK DESCRIPTIONS

Everyone should start over with God's antidote for healing their own heart, casting down strongholds and destroying the deceptions of the enemy.

1. Turn to pages 12 – 15 of session #2 for the Biblical Principles of Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Previously these principles were reviewed in the context of loving communication. Now review these principles in light of God's purposes for marriage, unloving communication, meeting our spouse's unique companionship needs as ordained by God and godly leadership in the home.
2. Review of the main points:

The Cost of Unforgiveness

- What did you learned about the cost to yourself in light of what you have learned over the previous weeks studying Marriage Is A Ministry?

Why Forgive?

1. God commands it!
 2. In forgiving, we resemble Jesus, and bear the family likeness.
 3. It is the only means of breaking the cycle of blame and pain.
 4. Forgiveness loosens the stranglehold of guilt in the offender.
- Discuss together where you have been stuck in unforgiveness in the past?
 - How has God revealed to you from the above list why you must forgive your spouse in order to grow in Christ?

Reconciliation

- Review the steps for reconciliation with one another found on page 14.
4. If we choose not to forgive, what does this indicate to ourselves (see page 15)?
 5. What keeps us from forgiveness and reconciliation with our spouse (see page 15)?
 6. When we refuse to forgive who or what is lord of our lives? Who should be lord of our lives? (see page 15)
 7. What should you do if fear is keeping you from forgiving and reconciling with your spouse? (see page 15)
 8. What does Matthew 18:21-35 tell us are the consequences of unforgiveness?

Turn to appendix page 1 and follow the three steps for starting over using biblical forgiveness and reconciliation if this has not already been done.

Review together the **Four Points Of True Forgiveness**.

Remember:

- God blesses obedience.
- Our faithfulness in completing all of the homework is the beginning of a truly wonderful relationship with our spouse in Christ.
- Our transformation happens only as we abide in Him. This means our daily devotions and our obedience to His Word, including confession and repentance of our mistakes, are critical to this process.
- To see Jesus work miracles, the disciples had to follow Him.

APPENDICES HOMEWORK DESCRIPTIONS

Continue practicing loving communication, forgiveness and reconciliation, and diligently working on meeting each others companionship needs under the guidelines of godly leadership in your home.

Before you panic due to disorder and confusion in your home, review **Appendix page 2** and answer each of the points as it pertains to you personally. Remember, transformation is a process that is realized by consistent obedience to God's Word, not by living according to our own desires. If you continue to have struggles that you cannot resolve, seek counsel from your pastor.

A suggestion for anyone that does not yet practice daily devotions is to use a workbook that interacts with the Bible, like ***The Biblical Principles for a Strong Foundation***. This topical workbook teaches from the Bible using a structure that encourages daily reading of the Word and journaling. It challenges the disciple using scriptural references and quotes from well known Bible teachers whose lives exemplify their messages. You may obtain a copy of the workbook, ***The Biblical Principles for a Strong Foundation*** from your leader who has it on a PC disc contained in the *Marriage is a Ministry* DVD kit.

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May God richly bless you as you walk in obedience to His Word.

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STARTING OVER

Step One - Confess Your Sins To The Lord

Proverbs 28:13 *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."*

1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Step Two - Ask For Forgiveness From Others

Matthew 5:23-24 *"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."*

Step Three - Forgive Others

Colossians 3:12-14 *"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."*

Four Points Of True Forgiveness:

1. No longer keeping a record of wrongs suffered.

"Love ... keeps no record of wrongs" **1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV**

2. Do not gossip to others about your spouse's sin.

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." **Ephesians 4:29**

3. Do not dwell on the offenses of others. But restoring fellowship with the forgiven person, as far as is biblically possible.

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things." **Philippians 4:8;**

"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." **Romans 12:18**

4. Forgiveness is to be granted without limitation.

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." **Matthew 18:21-22**

Marriage Is A Ministry
Marriage Discipleship Self-Evaluation Checklist
(Review and discuss as a couple before you give up)

Now that you have learned God's plan for your marriage, you may experience difficulties that lead you to believe that God's plan is not working or you may experience frustration because your spouse is not doing their part. If this happens, don't panic or look to the world's methods! Don't fall back on old habits! Instead, use the following evaluation checklist to discern the true source of the problem.

Your Spiritual Foundation

- How is your devotional life? Read Psalm 1:1-3. Would you use words like worshiping, listening, thanking, confessing, interceding, etc. to describe your daily communication with God?
- Do you read and meditate upon God's Word in a daily quiet time?
- Are you trusting God with your finances and giving tithes regularly?
- Are your priorities in accordance with God's desires for you and your family? Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in your life?

Remember: You must depend upon The Lord! The key is not in your methods, but a relationship with God!

Communicating In Love

- Take the Effective Listening Self-Evaluation in *Loving Communication* (pages 19A-19B).
- Have you been reacting in the flesh to your spouse or responding to them in love?
- Take a moment and review *What Love Is Not* on pages 8-11. Are there areas where you need to improve in your communication or apologize to your spouse?
- Have you been using the Breaking the Cycle of Unloving Communication worksheets provided on pages 16-19 in session #2 of your Marriage Is A Ministry workbook?

Remember: Your communication with and toward your spouse reflects the value you have placed upon him/her.

Meeting the Companionship Needs of Your Spouse

- The best way to lead or submit is by personal example. How are you doing?
- Are you and your spouse working together and supporting one another? How is your management style?
- Do you need further discipleship in parenting, financial management, or other subject?
- Are you praying regularly for and with your spouse? Have you followed through with your commitment to have a weekly family Bible study in your home?

Remember: God loves you and He loves your spouse. You must trust Him. He has not given you a task beyond your ability to accomplish as you trust in Him and obey His will.

Has God revealed areas in your family relationships where you have drifted off-course? If so, follow the steps outlined below to get your home back on course.

1. Confess to God, acknowledging your weaknesses, mistakes, or failures.
2. Receive God's forgiveness. Allow Him to embrace you in His arms of love and grace.
3. Repent by turning away from your error and commit to walk in obedience to His will.
4. Ask for forgiveness from your spouse, if necessary.
5. Be willing to forgive your spouse just as God in Christ has forgiven you.

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