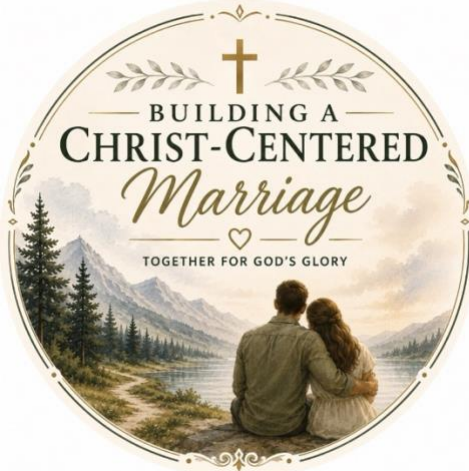




MAKING DECISIONS TOGETHER

LESSON SEVEN

BUILDING A CHRIST CENTERED MARRIAGE

Ten Biblical Lessons for Growing Together in Love, Faith, and Unity

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| 1. God's Design for Marriage (A, B, C) | 6. God's Gift of Physical Intimacy |
| 2. Love, Respect, and Biblical Leadership | 7. Making Decisions Together |
| 3. Communication That Builds Unity | 8. Money, Work, and Stewardship |
| 4. Healing from Past Hurts, Bitterness, and Unforgiveness | 9. Protecting Your Marriage |
| 5. Growing Spiritually Together | 10. Growing Old Together and Leaving a Godly Legacy |

Main Scripture Passage: Philippians 2:1–5

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Main Truth: A husband and wife honor God when they seek His wisdom, listen to one another, and make decisions in love and unity.

Lesson Purpose: To help couples use Scripture, prayer, honest conversation, and wise counsel when making decisions together.

LESSON OVERVIEW

Every marriage requires decisions. Some are small, such as what work needs to be done that day. Others involve money, children, church, health, work, or where the family will live.

Differences do not always mean that one person is wrong. A husband and wife may see different needs, risks, and facts. God can use those differences to bring balance and wisdom.

Decision making becomes harmful when one person controls, threatens, hides facts, or refuses to listen. It also becomes harmful when a person uses anger, silence, tears, or pressure to get his or her way.

Biblical leadership is not selfish control. A husband should lead with the love and sacrifice of Christ. A wife should give honest and wise counsel. Both should seek God's will above personal pride.

IN THIS LESSON, WE WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING TRUTHS:

1. Seek God's wisdom before making important decisions.
2. Listen to understand before giving an answer.
3. Work toward unity and move forward faithfully.

MAIN SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Philippians 2:1–5

1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

PART 1: SEEK GOD'S WISDOM TOGETHER

James 1:5–6

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

1. Begin important decisions with prayer. Ask God for wisdom, a humble heart, and freedom from selfish motives.

2. Use Scripture as the first guide. God will never lead a couple to choose what His Word calls sin.
3. Do not trust feelings alone. Fear, excitement, pride, tiredness, or pressure can make a choice seem better or worse than it is.
4. Gather true facts. Learn the cost, time, risk, effect on the family, and other choices before giving an answer.
5. When possible, allow time to pray and think. A rushed decision often leaves important questions unanswered.
6. Seek counsel from mature and godly people when the matter is difficult. Counsel should help a couple obey God, not take sides in a quarrel.

Practical Illustration: Before Buying Another Field

Levi learned that a field near his farm was for sale. He was excited and wanted to give an answer that day. Miriam was concerned about the debt and the time needed to care for more land.

Instead of arguing, they prayed and waited. They wrote down the cost, the possible income, the work involved, and the needs of their children. They also asked a trusted older farmer for counsel.

The field looked useful, but the debt would have placed too much pressure on the family. Levi and Miriam agreed to wait. Their choice brought peace because they had sought wisdom together.

DISCUSSION AND SELF EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you pray before important decisions or only after trouble begins?
2. What Bible truth should guide a decision that is before you?
3. Are your own wants making it hard to hear God or your husband or wife?
4. Who could give wise and godly counsel without taking sides?

PART 2: LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND BEFORE GIVING AN ANSWER

James 1:19–20

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: **20** For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Proverbs 18:13

He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

1. Listening does not mean that you already agree. It means that you care enough to understand before you answer.
2. Ask simple questions. What is your concern? What good do you hope will come? What danger do you see?
3. Repeat what you heard in your own words. Give your husband or wife a chance to correct what you misunderstood.
4. Do not laugh at an idea, interrupt, raise your voice, threaten, or withdraw in silence. These actions close the door to honest counsel.
5. A husband should not call control biblical leadership. He needs his wife's knowledge, gifts, and concerns. Wise leadership listens and loves.
6. A wife should speak truth with respect and should not use pressure to gain control. Both husband and wife are responsible to honor Christ.

Practical Illustration: A Change in the Work Schedule

Jacob was offered more evening work. He saw the extra income and thought the choice was clear. Ruth saw that the children were missing time with him and that both of them were already tired.

At first Jacob defended his plan. Then he stopped and asked Ruth to explain her concern. He learned that she was not against his work. She was concerned about the health of their home.

They agreed that Jacob would accept only two evenings and review the choice after one month. Listening helped them find an answer that cared for both income and family life.

DISCUSSION AND SELF EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you listen to understand, or do you prepare your answer while the other person speaks?
2. Does your husband or wife feel safe to disagree with you?
3. What concern from your husband or wife have you been too quick to dismiss?
4. What can you do to discuss one decision calmly this week?

PART 3: WORK TOWARD UNITY AND MOVE FORWARD FAITHFULLY

Ephesians 4:2-3

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **3** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. **10** For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Romans 12:18

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

1. Not every small choice needs a long meeting. A couple can agree who handles certain daily tasks and what choices must always be discussed.
2. Important choices about money, children, work, health, church, or moving should not be hidden or made alone.
3. If you cannot agree, pause when possible. Pray again, gather more facts, name the main concern, and seek wise counsel.
4. Unity does not mean that each person gets every preference. It means that both seek what honors God and cares for the whole family.
5. Agreement never makes sin right. A spouse should not be pressured to join dishonesty, danger, abuse, or anything that disobeys God's Word.
6. After a decision is made, support it faithfully. Do not keep blaming your spouse. Review the decision together if new facts or problems arise.

Practical Illustration: Repairing the Barn Roof

Moses wanted to patch the barn roof himself to save money. Anna was worried because several boards were weak and a storm was coming.

They looked at the damage together and asked an experienced builder to inspect it. He showed them which part needed quick repair and which part could safely wait.

Moses and Anna chose a plan that protected the barn and stayed within their budget. Neither person received everything first desired, but together they found a wiser answer.

DISCUSSION AND SELF EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. Which decisions in your home should always be made together?
2. What step can you take when you cannot agree?
3. Do you keep bringing up an old decision to blame your husband or wife?
4. What decision can you place before God together this week?

A SIMPLE PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

1. Choose one decision that needs calm attention.
2. Pray together and read Proverbs 3:5–6.

3. Each person share the facts, hopes, and concerns while the other listens without interrupting.
4. Agree on one next step and choose a time to review the decision.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your Word and for promising wisdom when we ask You in faith.

Help me trust You instead of leaning on my own understanding. Show me when pride, fear, or personal desire is guiding my choices.

Teach me to listen to my husband or wife before I answer. Help me receive concerns and counsel without anger or defensiveness.

Help us speak with truth, kindness, and respect. Keep us from control, threats, silence, and every selfish way of getting what we want.

Give us wisdom to gather facts, seek godly counsel, and wait when we do not yet know what to do.

Lead us toward choices that honor Christ and care for our whole family. Help us support one another and learn from our mistakes.

Make us of one mind in You, and direct our path. In Jesus' name, Amen.