

TEACHING NOTES (underlined words indicate answers for the handout)

Wisdom for Wives

INTRODUCTION

1. This is probably the most important lesson since the wives have so much to learn.
2. Wives, have you ever had a man to be honest enough to tell you what he really wants in a wife? Let me share with you an article entitled: THE IDEAL WIFE, WHAT EVERY MAN EXPECTS.

She is always beautiful and cheerful.
Could have married a movie star but only wanted you.
Beauty that won't run in a rainstorm.
Never sick, just allergic to expensive clothing and fur coats.
Insists that moving furniture by herself is good for her figure.
Expert in cooking, cleaning the house, fixing the car, painting the house, and keeping quiet.
Favorite hobbies – mowing the lawn, and shoveling the snow.
Hates charge cards.
Favorite expression – “What can I do for you dear?”
She thinks you have an Einstein brain but look like Mr. America.
Wishes you would go out with the boys so that she can get some sewing done.
And loves you because you are just so wonderful.

That is the ideal wife, what every man expects.

But now here is what he gets:

She speaks 140 words a minute with gusts up to 180.
She once was a model for a totem pole.
She is a light eater, as soon as it gets light she starts eating.
Where there is smoke there she is . . . cooking.
She lets you know that you only have 2 faults, everything you see and everything you do.
No matter what she does with it, her hair looks like an explosion in a steel wool factory.
And if you get lost open your wallet and she will find you.

I have to be fair and balanced so let's look at:

THE IDEAL HUSBAND, WHAT EVERY WOMAN EXPECTS:

He will be a brilliant conversationalist.
He will be a very sensitive man, kind, understanding, and truly loving.

Very hard working.

A man who helps around the house by washing dishes, vacuuming floors, and taking care of the yard.

Someone who helps his wife raise the children.

A man of emotional and physical strength.

A man who is as smart as Einstein but looks like Robert Redford.

But here is what she gets:

He always takes her to the restaurants. Someday he may even take her inside.

He doesn't have any ulcers, he gives them.

Anytime he has an idea in his head he has the whole thing in a nut shell.

He is known as a miracle worker. It's a miracle when he works.

He supports his wife in a manner in which he is accustomed. He is letting her keep her job.

He is such a bore that he even bores you to death when he gives you a compliment.

And he has occasional flashes of silence that makes his conversation brilliant.

3. Women are unique creatures of God.

God made the woman from man, to complete man and to help man. To me and to God it sounds like a man needs a woman to make it in this life.

4. In this session III we want to look at the subject "Wisdom for Wives."

5. There are certain things a wife needs to know if she wants to have a strong marriage.

6. Please allow me to put in a disclaimer: there is no perfect marriage. There is no perfect partner. But at the same time there must be a strong desire to improve.

Now please understand I have no personal agenda to be hard on the women or to be hard on the men.

My ambition is that each of us will want to do everything in our power to ENRICH OUR MARRIAGES.

To do this we must both be willing to learn, to grow, to make changes, and to want to please each other more than to please ourselves.

7. So let me share with you some very important principles that every wife should know.

She must know:

I. The Power of Being a Positive Lover.

To be this kind of lover means three things for the wife.

First it means:

A. You Must Accept Your Husband As He Is.

Linda Dillow writes, "My husband was one of those fortunate men who upon marrying received not only a friend, lover, companion, and partner but also a personal holy spirit. This angelic being is a loving wife who feels it is her God ordained responsibility to convict her husband of sin, judgement, and righteousness as well as instructing him in proper etiquette, dress, and attitudes."

Obviously, this "does not" describe a wife who accepts her husband as he is.

1. Your husband is not your own personal mission field to convert and change. How many feel that way?

2. He is to be your lover, your companion, your closest friend, or he should be.

I am not suggesting that you overlook sinful habits or things like that. In these cases, of course, he needs help.

God does call us to be concerned about the spiritual growth of the ones we love.

We are not to nag, manipulate, or pressure our spouses. This always does more harm than good.

3. There are three things you should model before your husband.

a. Diligently pray for your husband daily.

b. Quietly model true spirituality before them. Not in the face.

c. Patiently wait on God to do His work in their lives.

It is not wrong for you to want to change your husband to be more Godly. What is wrong is when we want to change them to be conformed to our image, or to make them like we want them to be.

We are wrong when we try to get them to respond to situations the way we respond to them.

To consider important the things we consider important.

To enjoy what we enjoy.

To relate to people the way we relate to them.

And to especially be the kind of husbands we would be if we were husbands.

I am not saying it is wrong for him to feel these ways but he should want to and not feel pressure from you that he has to conform.

What are some things you would do if you were a husband? Take out trash, fix the yard.

Release your husband and let him be himself.

4. There are at least three things you should not do in being a positive lover:

a. You should not create expectations for your companion.

You should do them yourself.

You obey God and let your husband be himself and release him from your expectations.

b. You should not recreate his personality.

c. You should not squeeze him into the little mold that you think should be right for him as a husband.

Sometimes the things we like or dislike in a person is the 2nd side of the same coin and we can't have one without the other.

For example:

a. You may hate the fact that he is rigid and overly practical, but you love his discipline and his sense of responsibility.

b. You hate the fact that he would rather play ball than paint the fence but you love the fun relationship he has with the children.

c. You hate the fact that he is not more aggressive in the market place but you love the sensitivity and the tenderness with which he treats you and you wish you could have the one without the other.

But that is unrealistic.

What are some of the things you dislike about your husband?

Secondly, Being A Positive Lover means:

B. You Must Choose to Encourage Your Husband.

Why do I say choose? Because some would say I do not know how so therefore I can't. But I am here to say this must be a choice that you willingly make. How can I encourage my husband?

1. You must learn to affirm his strengths.

You must learn to build them up.

2. You must be his greatest cheerleader.

Wives be the greatest cheerleaders your husbands have because if you don't somebody else may be.

3. You must seek to meet his needs.

You may have to ask him what his needs are.

4. You must seek to compliment him.

I am not saying you should exaggerate or make things up, but take advantage of legitimate things to encourage them.

You could say things like:

"I appreciate the way you provide for this family."

"You look so nice today."

"It was great the way you played with the kids last night." Or grandkids.

"The room you wallpapered looks so wonderful."

"Your boss should feel lucky he has you."

"I appreciate your willingness to listen to me."

"I was so impressed with you at the dinner get together last night."

"Of course, honey, you can handle that new position."

"I am so glad I married you."

[] Statements like that go a long way. Listen to Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

They add tremendously to the beauty and atmosphere of a relationship.

[] There are some wives who complain that their husbands spend too much time at their jobs.

"Have you ever wondered why?" Why do some husbands not like to be home but would rather be at work?

It could be that when they are there they receive a certain level of affirmation that they do not receive at home.

[] If you provide this kind of affirmation, then it may bring the husband home sooner.

What are some ways a husband can be encouraged? Ask him.

Thirdly, being a positive lover means:

C. You Must Learn To Express Your Love To Your Husband In Ways That Are Meaningful To Him.

How do you do this?

1. Your husband is a unique individual. You chose him so therefore, don't try to change him but put forth an effort that will help you understand him.

2. Don't assume what pleases your husband.

Look for ways to please him.

Ask him questions.

What are some ways that will please your husband?

Ask husband or wife.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What are some ways that do not please your husband?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. Willfully and eagerly do things for your husband.

If he appreciates it, it is worth doing.

The second thing a wife needs to know is:

II. Beware Of The Dangers of Careless Communications.

A. Communicating Effectively Is Usually The Greatest Relational Challenge.

1. If you are not verbal there will be problems.

When there are problems the quickest way to a solution is to be able to talk about it.

2. The survival of a marriage depends upon the willingness to discuss the problems in a relationship.

Remember we are to speak the truth in love.

B. How Do You Open And Keep Open The Line Of Communications?

Here are five principles that you can use to keep the lines open.

1. Never assume because you are a positive lover that it means you have to hide your needs, your hurts, and your tears.

It may appear to be loving on the surface but it will actually destroy your love.

Dr. James Dobson says, "Hostility grows out of hidden hurt."

2. Never stockpile your grievances.

It is much easier to deal with one issue at a time than with a whole pile of issues.

3. Whenever you have to talk to your husband about something that could be difficult, take it to the Lord first.

Allow God to calm you down and give you the right words to say.

This will make all the difference in your approach to your husband and the results of the conversation.

4. Remember that how you say something is as important as what you have to say.

Don't let things build up until you blow up.

Don't catch your husband coming home late from work and let him have it.

Plan a time to go out and discuss your problems in a healthy environment.

5. Take a positive approach to the problem and use affirmation rather than accusation.

The third thing a wife needs to know is:

III. Learn The Value Of Focusing On The Fun Side Of Marriage.

A. How Can We Incorporate More Fun In Our Marriages?

1. Set aside a date time once a week or an occasional get away weekend.

I know it is tough when you have little ones and need babysitters.

Be creative. Don't allow your children to become an excuse for not developing a good relationship with your husband.

2. Enjoy a candlelight dinner at home after the children go to bed.

3. Take an evening walk around the block.

This is one way you can enjoy doing something together without spending a lot of money.

How have you created more fun in your marriage?

[] The important thing is to break out of the routine and do something spontaneous and unpredictable. Shock them a little.

B. Why Is Fun So Important In A Marriage?

1. When we have fun together we see each other in a different light.

We are able to see each other differently. We look beyond any obstacles of friction.

2. We are able to break down barriers.

We recapture a feeling of youthfulness we had when we first met and it helps to break down some barriers between each other.

3. We enjoy sexual relationship much better.

We talk, we touch, we laugh, we stimulate an atmosphere of warmth and love in closeness.

It helps remove the negative issues that are affecting your sexual relationships.

Don't be embarrassed. Your mate may not know what it is that you need sexually.

We will talk about sex in a later session but while I'm here let me mention to you wives that you must understand how destructive sexual frustrations can be in a man's life.

Women can enjoy sex as much as a man but they are much more able to ignore sexual frustration than a man can.

Men are not able to do it quite the same way. Instead of blocking it out of their mind they tend to become pre-occupied with it.

When we get married we make the promise of sexual fidelity.

We say in effect, all the sexual hopes and dreams and expectations I have I give to you. I will not seek to satisfy them elsewhere.

When we require sexual fidelity we are also making a promise saying that we will do everything in our power to fulfill one another's sexual needs.

What does your husband need from you sexually:

He needs you to willingly and eagerly step out of the various roles you are involved in on any given day and join him in creating a romantic refuge for the two of you. This is carving a refuge out of the routine.

This is a secret place where married couples can enjoy the physical pleasures that God has created.

Read the Song of Solomon together.

Does God expect you to be perfect in these areas? Of course not.

Will you ever reach perfection in these areas? Probably not.

But what God does expect is for you to keep working at improving your relationship with your companion.

Marriage requires hard work.

Every wife has the power to bring some positive changes to your marriage if you consider implementing some of the suggestions made in this session.

The most valuable thing you can have is a healthy relationship with your husband.

What are some fun things you do in your life?

[] Together you need to commit to nurturing fun or you will sink to boredom which will destroy marriage.

CONCLUSION

Here is your assignment to do this next week possibly at a meal outside your home: Ask your husband these questions:

1. Do you feel I am trying to change you into my image? Or expectations of what I think a good husband should be? If so in what specific areas?

2. What are some specific things I can do for you to tell you and to show you that I love you? Or even quit doing to show you?

3. Is there something you would like for me to join you in doing that would help us nurture the fun side of marriage?

Let's pray!