

TEACHING NOTES (underlined words indicate answers for the handout)

Mistakes Husbands Often Make

INTRODUCTION

1. I am sure this session will not take as long as the first one since we men do not make as many mistakes as the women do. Can I get a witness?

2. How many enjoyed the first session? Mostly men.

How many are going to enjoy this session? Mostly women.

3. Again, let me clarify when we talk about mistakes we are not classifying them as failures but areas that we can improve on and do better.

4. Husbands, let's be fair and balanced, what are some mistakes you have made in your marriage or maybe some you have seen from other marriages?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

How many think we should stop right here since there are probably not too many more we could list?

5. In this session I want to look at five common mistakes some husbands make some of the time but not all husbands all the time.

I appreciate my wife being here and she helps me to remember that I am still learning.

6. Before we start this section let me share with you why it's great to be a guy.

1. Bathroom lines are 80% shorter.

2. You can be showered and ready in ten minutes.

3. Your underwear costs \$7.50 for a pack of three.

4. None of your coworkers have the power to make you cry.

5. You can quietly enjoy a car ride from the passenger seat.

6. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.

7. If you retain water, it's in a thermos.

Mistake #1:

I. Husbands Forget Their Job Description.

The real work of marriage begins after you say, "I do."

You work hard all day but when you get home there is still some work that needs to be desperately done.

There are five areas you need to make sure are covered in your job description.

A. You must be loving to your wife.

1. Your wife's number one need is to feel loved.

They function much better when they truly feel loved.

2. Demonstrating love, which is more than just sex, is a must. Love means doing.

3. To love your wife means to be concerned about her future.

4. Loving your wife means you will do things to prove it.

5. Sometimes you need to ask her what can you do to show love.

Asking her is one way to show love.

B. You must work on knowing your wife.

1. What are her dreams, hopes, and fears? What excites her? What hurts her? And what makes her cry?

2. Women do not think weird they just think differently than most men do.

3. God created her to think different from you because he knew when you would be together you and your wife would complete the picture.

C. You must work on understanding your wife.

1. You should take time to study the uniqueness of your wife in order to better understand her.

2. You must understand that your wife is not you. She does things differently but that does not make her wrong.

D. You must work on listening to your wife and not just fixing your wife.

When a woman is feeling stressed or hurt by a situation what is it that she really wants? Three points and a poem? NO

1. When stressed a wife wants compassion and understanding. She does not want a lecture or a how to seminar.

A pastor was watching some fellows playing basketball outside his window and he noticed when one of the fellows fell down or was hurt the game would continue as if nothing wrong had happened. But he noticed when there were women playing basketball and someone got hurt the whole game stopped to check out the injured player to see if she was all right.

2. My wife does not want me to say when she is hurting over something to "just get over it." "Get on top of the problem."

3. More than getting your tool belt out to fix her she needs you to hold her and let her talk.

4. You could say, "I am sorry you are hurting. What happened is really bad."

E. You must learn to communicate your feelings to your wife.

1. I am sure you noticed that women talk more than men.

2. One reason why women talk is to create intimacy.

She wants to know your thoughts and how you feel about things.

3. Your wife should be your best friend but not your buddy. You should communicate differently to her than you do to your male pals.

4. One of the by-products of intimacy is a wonderful sexual relationship...so keep talking creatively and intimately.

Mistake #2:

II. Husbands Stop Courting Their Wives.

A. The need for courting does not end at the marriage altar.

1. A woman's desire for romance and her need to be cherished greatly continues on after the honeymoon.

2. When a husband switches from overdrive romance before the wedding into cruise control after the wedding he is in big trouble.

3. The romantic tongue speaks of what is passionate.

B. How do you help to meet your wife's number one need which is feeling loved?

1. First of all she is not wrong for feeling this way.

2. She needs concentrated love and affection and desires to be cherished.
How?

a. Our wives need to know that we take time in the middle of our busy day to think about them.

b. Flowers and cards are very important on the special days such as birthdays and anniversaries but on the out of the way special times are even more meaningful.

c. A phone call in the middle of the day for no apparent reason other than I was thinking about you is a wonderful way to show your wife love.

d. A soft touch or a gentle kiss or a squeeze of the hand will make your wife feel loved.

C. Be sure you do not have any broken promises for they will destroy a marriage.

1. True romance will do what you said you will do.

2. It is the little everyday things that causes a marriage to grow and be strong.

3. If your wife does not feel loved through your romance she could receive it from somewhere else.

Keep the walls of your marriage secure. Don't leave the door open for trouble to get in.

Please don't allow this funny story to illustrate your decline in romance. This is a husband's reaction to this wife's colds during their seven years of marriage:

First year: "Sugar dumpling, I'm really worried about my girl. You've got a bad sniffle and there's no telling about these things with all the strep throat going around. I'm

putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a general checkup and a good rest. I know the food's lousy, but I'll be bringing your meals in from Rozzini's. I've already got it all arranged with the floor superintendent."

Second year: "Listen, darling. I don't like the sound of that and I've called Doc Miller to rush over here. Now go to bed like a good girl, just for me."

Third year: "Maybe you better lie down, honey. Nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something. Have we got any canned soup?"

Fourth year: "Now look, dear, be sensible. After you've fed the kids and got the dishes done and the floor finished, you better lie down."

Fifth year: "Why don't you take a couple of aspirin?"

Sixth year: "I wish you'd just gargle or something instead of sitting around barking like a seal all evening."

Seventh year: "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing! Are you trying to give me pneumonia?"

(Illustrations Unlimited, Tyndale 1990)

D. Spend the same energy keeping your wife as you did getting your wife.

1. You do not have to be the most handsome man on the earth. You just need to understand the power of romance.

2. There have been many handsome hunks of humanity who have lost their wives to balding men who understood the importance of romance.

The third mistake is:

III. Husbands Cease Being the Proper Example.

(Men, do you ever get tired of being the proper example?)

A. A husband must be family centered and not self-centered.

I read about one actor who was quoted as saying that he was divorcing his wife and basically destroying his family because at this particular time in his life was going to be his time. He wanted to discover who he was. The actor, on his journey to fulfill his needs, met another young lady and got her pregnant. Now he had another family to abandon.

B. Being the leader in the home is a good example.

1. This is an active example.
2. Passivity is one of the top reasons that marriages collapse.
3. Work hard at being passionate to your wife.
4. Work hard at communicating so you can stay connected to your wife.
5. Develop a whatever it takes attitude not a whatever will be fatalistic attitude.
6. If a man lets go of the leadership role, the wife in many cases will assume it.

C. What kind of example should husbands be?

1. We should be confident.
2. We should be passionate.
3. We should live with inner strength.
4. We should have the ability to make decisions.
5. We should be able to lead by example.

Gandhi, a great leader whose actions affected the world, led not by demanding or by being controlling but by serving. He led by example.

May we lead our homes by setting the right example, by serving and not demanding. If you do not see the desired results in your family, then quit blaming and start changing.

The fourth mistake is:

IV. Husbands Move Too Slow Into Adulthood.

It is normal for a man to make the journey of growing from a boy to a man to a father. There is nothing wrong with each stage as long as you are committed to moving to the next stage.

A boy is a child and he is entirely focused on getting his needs met. That is what children do.

As a baby, the parents met all of his needs. Hungry – fed him, dirty diaper – changed them, hurt – held him.

As a child grows, he should begin to meet his own needs.

There comes a time when a boy becomes a man. In the Jewish world it is called a bar mitzvah.

We have too many males today that are old enough to be men but still act like boys, self-centered, self-indulgent, looking to have their own way and have their own needs met.

When their needs are not met they pout, throw tantrums, display uncontrollable anger, hit people, and slam doors.

Have you grown up or do you act like a little boy?

A. Mature husbands understand that the world does not revolve around them.

1. A boy is concerned with taking care of himself.
2. A man is concerned about taking care of himself and his family around him.

B. Mature husbands understand that their job is to take care of the needs of his wife and family.

1. Providing for the family must be the number one priority of the husband.
2. If your father did not set the example do not use that as an excuse.

C. Mature husbands understand the importance of becoming a faithful father.

1. A father is one who gives to others without expecting anything in return.
2. A father is one who gives love when no one is giving love back.
3. A father is more concerned about his wife's needs than his own.
4. A father is so secure he is at liberty to give.
5. A father is not worried about his own needs being met.
6. A father is not just an older man, but a different person.

The next mistake is:

V. Husbands Allow Work to Replace their Homes as their Number 1 Priority.

A. Wives love it when their husbands have a job. They just like having the #1 position.

1. It is easy to say that our families are more important than our work.

2. The real question is are we living as if our family and home life is more important than our work.

3. Nothing is more important than your home.

B. Be careful not to postpone the home as the number one priority in your life.

I read about a newly married young couple. He was in school full time and working a job part-time. His wife was also working. They went to a counselor to talk because they were frustrated with their young marriage. Here was the comment that raised a huge red flag of warning to the counselor. He said that he had told his wife that for a few years his schooling needed to be the most important thing. He said that they needed to put the relationship on the back burner, just until he was out of school. The counselor's response was, "If you put your relationship as priority number two for a couple of years, you won't have one to come back to."

1. Schedule time together.

2. Consider your heart like a bank account. You can take some out as long as you have been putting deposits in.

3. The withdrawal is not a big deal as long as there is plenty left in the account balance.

C. Marriages and families will not survive if left too long on the back burner.

1. Keep your marriage at the center of your life.

2. Be willing to invest whatever is needed.

CONCLUSION

1. You must remember your job description.

2. You must keep on courting your wife.

3. You must be the proper example.

4. You must move right into adulthood.

5. You must keep you home as your number 1 priority.