

Fathers' Studies: Husband-Wife Relationships

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 26 OF 52

VALUE YOUR WIFE'S ADVICE

LESSON AIM: To understand the value of a wife's advice.

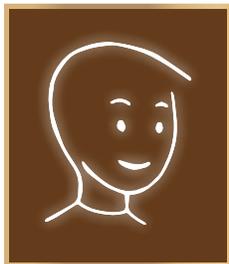
KEY VERSE:

1. **PROVERBS 31:10-12** A husband can trust a good wife because she does _____
_____ for him.
2. **PROVERBS 31:26** A good wife speaks with _____.
3. **PROVERBS 18:1-2** Some men like to speak their own mind but don't want to listen to others. This kind of a man is a _____.
4. **MATTHEW 27:15-19** Pilate received good advice about what to do with Christ. Who gave him this advice?

5. **2 KINGS 4:8-10** The woman of Shunem gave good advice to her husband to build _____
for the prophet Elisha.

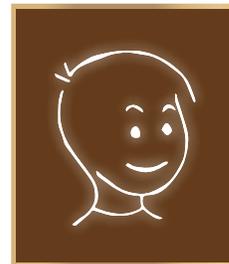
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



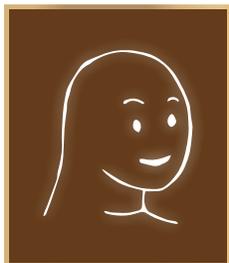
By Yourself

Think of a time when your wife gave you good advice. Sit down and write her a thank-you note today.



With Your Children

Read them the story of King Rehoboam from 1 Kings 12. This was a man who made poor choices on what advice to listen to.



With Your Wife

Ask her what things she would like to give you advice on, for example: spending, home repairs, child discipline. Promise to respect her advice and not make fun of her.

VALUE YOUR WIFE'S ADVICE

LESSON 26 OF 52

God had more than one reason for bringing a husband and wife together in marriage. One reason is for the wife to be a counsellor to her husband.

A man cannot know and understand everything. In some things, God has given women understanding that the men do not have. In other things, He has given men understanding that women do not have. When the man and the woman are truly one and listen to each other's advice, together they can make good decisions.

When a wife gives advice, it does not mean that she wants to take control. The husband still has to make the final decision. Even if he does not follow his wife's advice, he can still make better decisions because he has more information to base his decisions on.

Why is a wife's advice so valuable?

SHE CAN SEE FROM A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT. When a husband thinks of something, he sees it from his own viewpoint. His wife can see a different side to it. She often sees things that the husband overlooks.

SHE IS MORE CAUTIOUS. Because of her need for security, she is not as quick to act. She is often aware of dangers that he does not see. She wants to take more time to think it over and pray about it.

HAVING HER GOOD ADVICE ACCEPTED MAKES HER FEEL GOOD ABOUT HERSELF. If a husband rejects all of his wife's advice, she feels that he thinks she is not intelligent. She feels that she has no value and is not important. When things go wrong, she wants to blame her husband.

BUT A WIFE'S ADVICE IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT. If it goes against God's Word, it is wrong. Abraham should not have followed Sarah's advice to father a child by Sarah's slave girl (Genesis 16). Sometimes the wife does not have the wisdom or knowledge to give good advice. However, a good husband will still listen to it with respect, then make the best decision he can.

1 SAMUEL 25:3-38, JOB 2:9-10, PROVERBS 31:10-31

THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND TRUSTS IN HER...SHE DOES HIM GOOD AND NOT BAD ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE. (PROVERBS 31:11,12)

God has given women and men understanding in different areas.

Giving advice is not taking control.

A wife:

- can see from a different viewpoint
- is more cautious
- feels good about herself when her advice is respected

Compare all advice with God's Word and use the wisdom God gives.

WINDOW TO LIFE

Henry and Jean moved to another village a long distance away. After fifteen years in this village, someone offered them a chance to visit the village where they had lived before, all expenses paid. Henry was excited and wanted to go. But Jean felt that they should take this time to visit their children who were married and living far away.

Henry prayed about it. He decided to do what his wife wanted, even though he was disappointed. The visit to their children was more important for their family ties than the other trip would have been. Henry was glad he had listened to his wife's advice.

