



*The
Homefront*

This book stems from a study we did with the Veterans at our home church and their spouses. You may note that some of the topics are common to many married couples, however, the cause, intensity, commonality, and side effects are very different. Each week we separated the Veterans and the spouses and taught covering each topic and encouraged the couples to go home and discuss what they learned and report back each week. Couples reported it opened a dialog concerning the topics that they hadn't been able to open before. They realized what they thought was just a characteristic of their relationship was actually apparent in nearly every couple in the class. They were able to offer and accept help from others in the group who had dealt with the situation before. The study not only worked to help the couples but made great strides in bringing the group together as a cohesive unit eager to help other veterans.

Our single veterans were not excluded and gained great value from the study by learning the tactics Satan may use in their future relationships.

This study compiles some discussion points from the class study as a starting point. I encourage you to be open and discuss your issues, knowing it may not be easy.

1. ANGER
2. COMMUNICATION
3. DEPRESSION
4. FORGIVENESS
5. EMOTION
6. LOVE
7. DIRECTION VS ORDERS

1. Anger is not Sin

Mark 3:1-5 1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. 2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. 3 And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. 4 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. 5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Jesus committed no sin, however, this passage said He was angry. Obviously, in that scripture says Jesus was angry, anger is not sin, however, the result of not controlling anger is sin. We don't see Jesus getting angry needlessly, losing control of His anger, and tearing up the house or beating someone. This is where we often mess up.

1. God gives us direction on how to be angry.

Ephesians 4:26&32 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

- A. Being Angry is not sin, the result of uncontrolled anger is sin. Vs 26 Be ye angry, and sin not:
- B. Anger is a great motivator not only for the person who is angry but also the person causing the anger.
- C. Anger in step with edification is profitable for both parties because it motivates correction. However, anger without edification is

generally the result of selfishness and is unprofitable for either party.

- D. We see in our text that Jesus looked on them with anger “5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger” but it wasn’t them that He was angry with, He was angry for the hardness of their heart. “being grieved for the hardness of their hearts”.
- E. He was able to separate the people from the act the people were performing. Jesus knew but for Satan’s influence the question of healing the man on the sabbath would have never been raised. Therefore, He was able to properly place His anger on the situation and use the situation to edify (train) those He loved.
- F. When in the heat of the battle and someone makes a mistake do you allow your anger to overcome you and begin to throw a tantrum or do you recognize the situation, make the correction, and move forward? As the leaders of our families amid this war we must do the same.
- G. Determining if the result of your anger is sin or not begins with why you are angry in the first place. If our spirit is in control, we won’t become angry at the same things that make us

angry when our flesh is in control. It's when we are living in the flesh that we are uncontrolled and get angry sinfully.

2. Deal with the source of your anger and move forward.

- A. Satan is going to utilize any tactic he can to attempt to get us off course. One of his most common tactics is to use a tool that God has given us and twist it into something detrimental. If we allow anger to linger it opens the door for Satan to use our anger improperly. 26..... let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.

- B. In basic training when a recruit did something wrong, there was an immediate show of anger for effect, followed by retraining to prevent it in the future, and then you would move on because there were more things to learn. Imagine if on the first day of boot camp you did something wrong, and your DI never got past it. Your stupidity on the first day may have earned you a nick name or caused him to keep an eye on you but if he allowed that first day anger to continue, he couldn't have properly done his job of training you during the remainder of basic training.

3. Allow correction to satisfy anger.

- A. Punishment alone should never be what satisfies our anger. If our anger is properly placed on the situation and not the person, our goal will be to correct the situation alone. Otherwise, the situation that needs correcting is us. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
- a) Whatever the situation, proper punishment is for correction and has nothing to do with anger. Whether it be concerning your wife, children, or work your anger should be complete when correction is complete if not don't do it.
- b) Have you heard the statement “this is going to hurt me more than its going to hurt you”? If correction gives you satisfaction for any reason other than edification, there is a problem.

4. Do not contribute to the problem.

- A. If our anger is justified, properly placed on the situation not a person, and our motivation

is correction, why would we contribute to the problem.

- B. Unprofitable speech and action in a proper anger situation contributes to the problem. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

- C. If our initial anger is proper anger and directed by the Holy Spirit, it ends and ceases to be correction the moment you allow Satan to advance. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

- D. Keep this in mind, often the people our anger lands on is family, your team, those you depend on, and who depend on you. Bitterness and wrath are evidence of a tantrum on our part, and its motivation is something other than leadership. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Talking Points

- 1) Anything other than edified correction is unprofitable during anger. The emotion of anger doesn't excuse our actions as the result of uncontrolled anger. Men, spiritually speaking our wives are the weaker vessel as it pertains to Satan's attacks. When she gets angry and says hurtful things, we must consider what is influencing her, don't contribute to Satan's attack.
- 2) Every action we take that's not in the direction of edified correction is moving us further away from a profitable resolution.
- 3) Arguments are a net negative on any situation. It causes division, breaks up the team, and stops forward progress. If we are as mission oriented as we say we are as Veterans, why do we allow angry words to interfere with moving forward?
- 4) When we join in the argument, the other person is no longer responsible for whatever angered us, because we are responsible for controlling and correcting it, and we didn't.
- 5) Anger is like anything else, it's all about who we are going to let control us. God or Satan.

The Wife's Perspective

When two people live together, they are bound to become irritated at times. However, anger can be different in each marriage based on how it's expressed and managed. Often wives hide their anger and allow it to escalate to flat-out rage. Anger can occur through everyday annoyances and built-up bitterness. A wife's anger often exposes itself through emotion. A wife's anger motivated emotion coupled with a Veterans lack of emotion is a recipe for disaster.

God gave us a heart and a brain. Both are necessary and affect our decision-making. Emotions are the voice of our heart. As a Christian wife, we often deny or invalidate an emotion such as anger because "Christian wives don't get angry." But without information from our heart, we often make mind-only decisions, which are incomplete.

When a wife yells or suppresses her anger towards her spouse with fear or shame this is not healthy for the marriage. The Bible tells us that charity envieth not; is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil -1 Corinthians 13:4-5.

Bitterness, rage and intimidation does not have a place in a marriage. Our pride and selfishness can drive angry rants towards our spouse and when attacks continue, a pattern of behavior can become a habit.

As Christians, we're called to be kind and compassionate to especially our spouse, — forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake have forgiven you - Ephesians 4:32. We can commit offenses against our husband just as they did us. Remembering this will help us maintain proper viewpoint when we become angry.

Ephesians 4:15 tells us but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: When someone is angry, his or her heart is closed, and God's love cannot flow to others.

2. “Mission Critical” Communication

Genesis 2:18-24 18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

A survey of veteran’s wives asked, “What are the top relationship issues that you deal with as a veteran’s wife?”. At the top of almost every wife’s list was communication. Veterans could argue our wives are

wrong, we are great at communicating. Communication is “mission critical” and where we come from communication failures get men killed. We have gone as far as creating languages and protocols to ensure efficient communication. We can say single words like “copy” “aye” and “wilco” that convey paragraphs worth of information. These communication principles allow us to convey an order and receive a one-word response that ensures the others understood the order and intends to carry it out. Our language limits needless lengthy discussions that reduce efficiency. If men are trained, it’s a perfect system for ensuring orders are conveyed confirmed and carried out efficiently with no questions needing to be asked. Problem is our families don’t speak our language, we aren’t on a military mission, and our position in this spiritual war has changed from warrior to leader. In as much as it was critical for us to learn military communication to do our job in the military it is critical for us to learn how to communicate for the mission of husband, father, boyfriend, and friend. If we can’t efficiently communicate with our families, it is impossible for us to prosecute our mission of leading our families. Many of us only saw the orders given and received portion of military communication and we try and carry that back to our families because it worked there. What we didn’t see was the discussion and planning that took place

above our rank. Be assured, in every order we received there was much listening, consulting, and discussion before the strategy was narrowed down to specific one-line orders for us to carry out. Our position has changed, previously most of us were required to simply follow orders that came from that planning, but in our new position of family commanding officer we need to strategize, plan, and communicate direction. In as much as our previous position required short words to give and receive orders our new position requires lengthy consult and discussion to create strategy and direction. If we can't or won't do that we will fail and fail our families.

1. God gave us our wives because we need them.

Genesis 2:18 It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

- A. If the God of everything says we need help, we need help.
- B. It is our duty to lead this wonderful resource that God gave us to maximize its benefit for you and the family.
- C. If there is a failure it will come from one of two places, just as it did in the military, poor

leadership, or unwillingness to follow leadership.

D. Often unwillingness to follow stems from poor leadership, however, corrected leadership motivates willingness to follow.

2. Gods' intention is for husband and wife to be the closest bond in the family, more so than with children, siblings, parents, or friends.

Genesis2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

A. This becoming one flesh is not something that occurs without some action. This passage gives a directive to the husband to “leave his father and mother” and “cleave unto his wife”.

B. Leaving father and mother speaks to all other relationships, no other human relationship is more important than this one.

C. We trusted our lives to the bonds we formed during our service; however, this bond is a bond wherein we are trusting our eternity and the eternity of our families.

D. This bond is so close we are instructed to become one flesh. Which means if she fails you fail and vice versa.

3. When we don't utilize the help meet God supplied us, we are being foolish.

A. Remember the arrogant officer who thought he didn't need to consult with anyone his junior before making a decision. Inevitably he always ended up making a fool of himself. This is a perfect illustration of not utilizing our spouses as we lead our families.

B. Although you are responsible for leading the family your wife has knowledge concerning the family that you don't have. You need all the information you can obtain to avoid traps Satan is going to lay for the family.

C. Especially when you have children, your wife is your executive officer. It has always worked well for me to take the philosophy that she runs the home and I run the family. Depending on her to oversee the daily operation of decisions like house rules takes it off your plate, properly positions her above the children, and allows you to lead the entire family.

4. To lead our families properly we must spend time strategizing, planning, and coordinating with the XO.

A. You know why communication was at the top of nearly every wife list, because that's what God made her to do.

B. Just like in the officer NCO relationship usually all your wife wants is for you to hear her concerns on a subject and its always to our benefit to listen.

Proverbs 18:2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

5. It's important that we continually plan and consult with our helpmeet through prayer, planning, and conversation so we are ready when the enemy attacks. The enemy will make you feel inadequate at first but it's his tactic don't fall for it.

A. If you want to be in charge, go home and take control, tell her that you are going to pray together.

- B. Read one passage of scripture together and talk about what it means, that's battle planning.
- C. When we take our proper place and allow our spouse to do the same, before you know it your relationship will be completely different.
- D. Ask your wife one time, what do you think about this situation and listen to what she says then see what happens.

Early 20th century evangelist R.A. Torrey said on prayer: The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came. The same applies to communicating with our spouse.

Talking points

- 1) Our position in this mission has changed, we are Commanding Officers.
- 2) Communication is still “Mission Critical”
- 3) The way we used to communicate doesn’t work in this mission.
- 4) God gave us a helpmeet XO in our wife.
- 5) Just because you listen to them doesn’t mean you are confined to their will, but it builds the relationship.
- 6) What are some things the enemy uses to keep us from communicating? Embarrassment, Busy, think we gave our orders there is nothing to talk about?

The Wife's Perspective

Good communication is the lifeblood of a successful marriage, so when spouses stop talking at any level, their marriages slowly die. A marriage will only be as good as a couple's communication.

The key to positive communication is found in knowing and being known. This means that you are interested in and curious about this person you married. Listen when your spouse talks. Ask questions. The other side of that is to let your spouse know what is going on in your life. Volunteer information about your deepest thoughts, beliefs, feelings, hopes and desires. Effective communication requires effort. You can build a strong marriage if you offer to both know and be known.

When couples fail or do not know how to communicate, resentment grows, and spouses become enemies instead of allies.

God gave us instructions about how to communicate with others. These are some examples:

1. Effective communication starts by giving God control of your thoughts and words. Psalms 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in the sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

2. Effective communication shows kindness to others. Colossians 3:13 – forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

3. Effective communication involves more than words. It requires listening and responding in a godly manner. James 1:19 – Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

What difference would it make in your marriage if you gave God control of your thoughts and words? If you showed kindness in the way you respond to your spouse? If you were quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to get angry?

3. God is not Silent on Depression

The number two issue, behind communication, that veteran's wives say they deal with is their husbands depression. If you ask ten different people their thoughts concerning depression you will get ten different answers concerning cause, effect, and treatment. Those who are on the extremely ignorant end of the spectrum concerning the subject will say its nonexistent. That thought is completely debunked, as we will see, by the fact that God considers the subject so often in scripture.

Psalms 13 1 (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;4 Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.6 I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Now that we have excluded the nonexistent argument, let's look at scripture and see if we can answer more questions on the topic.

1. What causes depression in veterans? There are many causes of depression ranging from chemical imbalances to spiritual imbalances. I want to discuss one most common cause among veterans.

- A. During our military career we were responsible for millions of dollars in equipment and men's lives. Everything we did and every decision we made was of extreme importance.
- B. On the day we got out, those types of decisions were no longer required of us, but we still live and think at that level of importance concerning everyday things in our everyday life.
- C. Veterans commonly think civilians are malingerers because their level of intensity seldom rises above 3 and we never get below 9. That is also why some veterans tend to be over achievers in the civilian world.

- D. When we are the only one that acts and reacts to situations at that higher level it causes us to be set aside from the crowd in a negative light because it's often viewed as over reaction in the civilian world.
- E. In our mind it brings us to the horrible realization that the purpose we serve isn't as life and death as it once was.
- F. When we are in a situation, and we are operating at level ten and the rest of the world is at level three it causes veterans extreme anxiety.
- G. When we come to the realization that it's us that's operating inappropriately to the situation our perception is that our life will never be as important as it once was.
- H. Some say our depression comes from situations we were in or actions we had to take during our service but for the most part we are good with those because we understand they were out of necessity. They may contribute to other issues, but a veteran's anxiety induced depression is caused by being out of our element but reacting as if we still were in it and the perception that our

purpose in life will never be as important as it once was.

- I. This explains the fact that some veterans who never experienced tragedy during their service still experience service attributable depression.

2. Satan uses this to keep us out of the fight.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

- A. This passage indicates “The Thief”, Satan and his goal “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” your life.
- B. We know he’s an intelligent enemy who will use every weapon that is available, against us “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” us.
- C. Satan uses our feelings of inadequacy to prompt depression, so he can “steal, and to kill, and to destroy” us. That is the reason we deal with depression.

- D. God doesn't want us to have to deal with the effects of depression as the passage indicates He wants us to "have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly".

3. Nonspiritual counseling for a Christian?

- A. Some will say nonspiritual counseling for a Christian is useless and spiritually speaking they are correct, however; these counselors see thousands of veterans annually and have made discoveries concerning triggers that are common to most veterans and that information is valuable in determining how and when Satan will attempt an attack.

4. What triggers bouts of depression in veterans?

1Peter 5:8-11 8Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen,

settle you. 11To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- A. To be prepared for Satan's depression attack it's important for us to try and determine what triggers our vulnerability to his attacks.
- B. In verse 8 God tells us to be on the lookout for what Satan may use to attack us “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”.
- C. Try to determine situations that bring it on. The next time you feel it coming on, stop and consider things that have occurred recently and how it affected your attitude.
- D. Don't limit yourself to anything. We know we have a powerful enemy, and his goal is to literally use something that you wouldn't expect so he can better conceal it. A smell, a word, a place.
- E. Once you determine what it is, steer clear of it. As minuscule as it may be, if it's keeping you out of the fight it is powerful, steer clear and get back in the fight.

- F. Verse 10 he tells us to “resist stedfast” but He doesn’t leave us to do it ourselves he tells us to do it “in the faith”. This my friend is where we always mess up. We have help! I have already stated, secular treatment is helpful but unless we as Christians “resist stedfast in the faith” we are not utilizing every defense assessable to us.

- G. How do we “resist stedfast in the faith”? We must first be in constant comms with God, so we are able to receive direction from him.

- H. Ask God to reveal to you those things that trigger your episodes of depression, so you can recognize and limit those triggers going forward.

- I. Ask God to minimize the effect that triggers have on you when you do encounter them.

- J. Ask God to keep you mindful of the perfect promise he gives us in verse 10 “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.“

5. How does depression affect us and what does scripture say about treating depression?

A. It's obvious Satan tries to confuse us so we will hide when he launches his weapon of depression, so we can't defend against it. However, in numerous scriptures God supplies us with examples of how depression affects us, so we can understand what is happening when we experience it. In addition, He gives us precious comfort and simple direction in how to counter Satan's attacks when he launches them. All we must do is be his child and keep in communication with Him.

B. **Fear:** Depression causes a "Spirit of fear". The victory over fear is that we are not alone, and the outcome of any fearful situation isn't up to the enemy. It is up to God and will be to our benefit if we simply rely on Him to handle it.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 6Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.7For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- C. **Anxiety:** Depression causes anxiety about our future. Remember the Lord said, “I am with thee” and that He placed the gift of salvation and the spirit “of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” in us, not fear. As a child of God, we can “be still” and remember that God is in control, and he already knows what the future holds and we are victorious.

Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

- D. **Peace:** Depression steals our Peace. As a child of God, we have the promise of the “peace of God, which passeth all understanding”.

Philippians 4:6&7 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.7 And the peace of God,

which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- E. **Loneliness:** Depression causes us to think we are alone and that nobody understands what we are dealing with. God tells us we have the comfort of knowing He is always with us, “The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous”, “his ears are open unto their cry”, he “is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart”.

Psalms 34:15-21 15The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. 16The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 18The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. 19Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

- F. **Confusion:** Depression allows Satan to confuse us which causes us to make mistakes. Our Heavenly Father promises if we simply “In all thy ways acknowledge him” “he shall

direct thy paths”. If He is directing our paths we can't fail. Step aside, let Him handle it.

Proverbs 3:5-6 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

6. The overriding promise to each of us from the God of everything is simply this:

Matthew 11:28-30 28Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

7. This entire lesson is summed up perfectly in the first verse of the hymn “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”.

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Talking Points

1. Can you identify something that prompts depression?
2. Can you point to a situation where depression has affected your life?
3. What are some negative things you recognize you do when depression hits you?
4. What are some positive things you can do to counter depression when it attacks?
5. What are some promises from God we need to remember concerning depression?

The Wife's Perspective

Depression can make a marriage miserable. When one spouse is depressed, it affects both partners and drives both parties into isolation.

When your spouse is depressed, you might feel ignored, unimportant, and frustrated. If you're the one who is depressed, perhaps you wish that your spouse would get off your back.

There is hope! Hope in Jesus!

His word tells us in Isaiah 41:10 – Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Psalms 56:3 also tell us that “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee”.

We should encourage our spouses from God's word. We must pray and allow God to use us as the help meet that He created to be. Depression is a complex subject and therefore we tend to shy away from it. God tells us in Matthew 19:26, with Him all things are possible. ALL – includes depression and God is always with us. We can trust in His word!

4. Forgiveness

Matthew 18: 21-35 21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Forgiveness is not an emotion or a feeling. Forgiveness is an action you take whether you feel like doing it or not. It's a conscious deliberate decision to release someone regardless of feelings or resentment or temptation of vengeance toward a person. Forgiveness is not something we do for others it's something we do for ourselves.

1. How are we to handle someone who has wronged us?

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

- A. The Lord doesn't say when they have said they are sorry forgive them. He said to forgive them as Christ forgave you.
- B. When Christ forgave you there was absolutely no reason for it, and it may seem as though there is no reason for you to forgive

the person who has wronged you but there is no moving forward until you do.

- C. For a Christian it's never a question of should I or can I forgive someone it's simply a matter of doing it. Jesus doesn't say try to, He says do it. Therefore, it's up to us to do it or not.
- D. Like all other sin Satan is the only one that profits from our sin and it's the same in this scenario.

2. How are those who wrong us corrected?

Romans 12:18-21 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

- a) The only way we will have the peace we are looking for in life is to “**live peaceably**”. It is impossible to live peaceably if you don't forgive those that wrong you.
- b) If we use the philosophy that there are only two entities controlling everything and we

only must determine who profits from a situation to determine who is behind it, it's easy to determine Satan is behind unforgiveness.

- c) If we don't forgive our spouse, we can't properly lead our family and Satan wins.
- d) If we don't forgive our children, we can't properly give them direction and Satan wins.
- e) If we don't forgive our brothers and sisters in Christ, we can't properly edify or be edified by them and Satan wins.
- f) If we don't forgive lost people, we can't properly give them the gospel and Satan wins.
- g) If we don't forgive, God WILL NOT supply, you with the comfort and care you desire and Satan wins.
- h) You see when we fail to take the action of forgiveness regardless of our feelings, we are giving our fleshly feelings place over God's direction.

3. When we make the decision to forgive how do we deal with the emotion of being hurt by that person's actions.

Colossians 3:16-17 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- A. Now you might say what about the feelings of anger, hurt, and everything else that comes with when someone wrongs you? How do you overcome that? First, we must ask where those feelings are coming from. Feelings that hope to take us outside the will of God come only from Satan, the enemy.
- B. When we separate the soul from our flesh, we will quickly realize it's the flesh that holds the feelings of resentment, as the soul doesn't have the ability to.
- C. So, once we've recognized where the prompting is coming from it allows us to evaluate and react to the situation properly.

- D. When someone wrongs us, whether it be family friend, or enemy if we are in tune with the Lord, He will make us a way to handle it. The best way to get past when someone wrongs us is to be like Christ was when we wronged him. **VS 16** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”
- E. This ability to forgive isn’t something you possess, that’s why this passage uses the phrase “teaching and admonishing”. The process of forgiving requires us to be taught, corrected by the Holy Spirit, and then properly react to the correction.

4. Concerning forgiving our wives.

Colossians 3:18-19 18Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
19Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

- A. How do we expect our wives to perform verse 18 (submit yourselves unto your own husbands) if we don’t perform verse 19 (be not bitter against them)?

B. We must realize that the issue of forgiveness is simply another weapon that Satan uses to drive a wedge in the family.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

C. When she does something to upset you and you get all those feelings and thoughts like she's doing this on purpose, I can't live this way, I'm going to get her back, you must realize its Satan launching an attack on your family through the weaker vessel.

D. If you were walking down the street and a man jumps out of the bushes and grabs your wife, are you going to help him or her? This is precisely what is occurring in this situation.

5. In summation forgiveness is service to God.

1Peter 2:9-12 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of

him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

- A. How are we at all able to spread the gospel of the forgiveness of God if we, His people, aren't forgiving.
- B. Vs 9&10 We give mercy because we got mercy.
- C. Vs 11 Unforgiveness is a fleshly lust that wars against our soul.
- D. Vs 12 it may be your forgiveness that brings someone to salvation.

Talking Points

1. Forgiveness and trust are two different things. You can forgive and still be cautious about trusting them again. If it doesn't confine your ability to lead, edify, or give them the gospel.
2. Are there people in your life that you have not forgiven?
3. What good are you preventing in your own life because of your unwillingness to forgive others, proper leadership, edification, the gospel?

The Wife's Perspective

Why Do We Find It So Hard to Forgive?

Why do we hold grudges? If we don't forgive and ask for forgiveness, the relationship suffers and may fall apart. Forgiveness is essential in maintaining any relationship. It's also the foundation of our faith. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God – Romans 3:2.

We all depended on God's forgiveness for our salvation. There is no greater picture of forgiveness than Jesus, who said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" – Luke 23:34

God's grace is the greatest guide for forgiveness in human relationships. When we truly recognize God's forgiveness of our sins, we are naturally compelled to forgive others - Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is incompatible with fairness. When we forgive, we relinquish the right and the need to get even. We release the anger we feel toward our spouse, recognizing that God will handle the matter in His own way. And His ways are not driven by the human sense of fairness. Forgiveness is our freedom. When we let go of the hurt and the anger, it is our own burden that we drop. Our relationship can move forward and deepen. A veteran wife once told me that

“when you forgive, you in no way change the past — but you sure do change the future.” Forgiveness may not feel fair, but it is indeed freeing!

God’s ultimate act of forgiveness may compel us to forgive others. But forgiveness is an attitude, not an action, and it’s never easy.

5. Emotion

Proverbs 29:8-11 8Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath. 9If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest. 10The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul. 11A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Have you experienced someone say, “you are heartless and have no emotion”? I suspect most every Veteran has at one time or another, probably some more than others depending on your training. The fact is we experience emotion we just don’t allow emotion to dictate our actions. Emotion has been trained out of us because emotion is a limiting factor in emergent situations as it prevents us from acting properly. Have you ever been irritated by a character in a movie that breaks down and cries amid being attacked, that’s what emotion does? Although I believe and our text confirms our emotional control is a positive, we must recognize that the rest of the world is often lead by emotion. Recognizing this and acting accordingly is necessary to properly lead, edify, and present the gospel. Because those we interact with do often allow emotion to dictate their action, it makes our not being led by emotion even more important and evident.

1. The danger of being led by emotion.

Proverbs 29:8 Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath.

- A. Scornful represents someone emotionally reacting to something. Scornful could be replaced with fearful, joyful, prideful, or any other emotion.
- B. The danger of acting on any emotion is when led by emotion you can't consider consequence and we often find ourselves and those we lead in a more difficult snare.
- C. Note that the last portion of the verse is good to tell us the outcome when we act according to scripture and our training. "but wise men turn away wrath"
- D. Anger is also an emotion and although we control the others quite well, we often fail at this one and it will also lead to the same level of snare for us and those we lead if not kept in check.

2. The danger of not recognizing that others are led by emotion.

Proverbs 29:9 If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.

- A. Undoubtedly, we will interact with those controlled by emotion and if we attempt to counter their every action, we allow ourselves to be led by their emotion in the secondary.
- B. This passage explains this in that if a wise man is continually reacting to a foolish man's actions that is all you will ever get done.
- C. It is so tempting to respond to others emotion, but if not careful, we simply succumb to the same emotional pitfalls.
- D. This does not relieve us from our brotherly responsibility of edification but in this situation that is best done by example.

3. How do we best lead those who are led by emotion.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

- A. First, ensure you are responsible for leading. There will be those you are responsible to lead, such as your wife and children, then there are those you are responsible for edifying, Christian brother.
- B. Secondly, we often find ourselves leading by lacking concern. What I mean is this, just because we don't lead by emotion doesn't mean that we are to be inconsiderate of the emotions of those we lead.
- C. You cannot lead if you have no followers and if you have no empathy for your family, it builds contempt and they will not follow.
- D. Verse 11 gives us wonderful instruction in this regard, "but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards". Equally as important as "keepeth it in" is the phrase "till afterward". Ensure that after the situation has past you spend some time debriefing the situation, explaining, and giving direction as to why

you acted as you did. This will help train those you lead for when they find themselves leading some day and it will build trust in your actions for the next occasion.

- E. This is often difficult for us, because we come from a follow orders and don't question because you may die background. We are in a new position now; our duty is to lead and train. There are just as many traps set on this battlefield, don't fall for them.

Talking Points

1. Have you recognized that you may not be as emotional as those around you?
2. Do you understand how although you have emotion, because of your training you don't allow emotion to lead your actions?
3. Do you understand that not allowing emotion to lead you is scripturally sound and a positive attribute?
4. Do you see that there are pitfalls if we don't recognize and empathize with others who are led by emotion?

The Wife's Perspective

Emotion is a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships. It is possible to manage emotions. Emotions and feelings can sometimes warp our senses of right and wrong, or completely change them to where we may hurt, or we are pushed further away from the loving hand of God. Our emotions are tied to what we desire or need, and when we feel we don't get those desires and needs fulfilled, we tend to act out in ways that may or may not show us in the best light.

The Bible characterizes positive emotions in Galatians 5:22-23, listing love, peace, kindness, gentleness, and joy as fruits of the Spirit. These show the Holy Spirit in us, while making life easier for those around us. Colossians 3: 12-14 tells us to wear tender mercies and meekness every day, forgiving and dealing with our spouse as well as others daily and loving everyone as Jesus does.

6. Love

Let me begin by saying this lesson is not the end all cure concerning love. However, I think it will help you set a standard for what love is and help you better define what you love. I know its preparation helped me.

As he does with all things Satan has corrupted the term love until we do not even know what it means anymore. One might say I love hamburgers and use the same term for how they care about their spouse. If we look at love in terms of level of care that we have for something instead of how we feel about something I think it is more proper scripturally and helps us properly categorize our devotion to something or someone. Feelings often change with the wind however love is based on more than feeling. I hope you can determine that a hamburger and your spouse are at different levels of care.

We read passages like John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” and quickly determine that love is the highest level of care. We can also determine that although love is the highest level of care there are levels of love, in that, the passage refers to “greater love” inferring that there must be lesser love.

To truly understand what love is and what I love I went to scripture and found three places where love was manifested. Meaning where someone acted on

their love. For me, after doing this it was like a light came on and I had a method and a standard that I could apply to determine what I loved and how much I loved it. If something did not meet this standard, I just liked it. The number of the standards it met determined how much I loved it. After assigning things in my life to this standard it gave me indication of what I loved, how much I loved it, and if I needed to strengthen my relationship with it so I could love it more or remove it from my life.

The standard is simply this, if I love something I must be willing to kill for it, live for it, or die for it. If it does not meet this standard, I just like it. The number of these three standards that it meets determines how much I love it.

Below I will present the three passages and some things that fall into the categories for me. I do this not to tell you this is what or how much you should love but, in an effort, to help those with the same experiences decide.

1. Kill for Him

Geneses 22:1-10 1And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.2And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt

offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.³And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.⁴Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.⁵And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.⁷And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?⁸And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.⁹And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.¹⁰And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

- A. God asked Abraham to manifest his level of love for him by killing the son “whom he lovest”.
- B. If put in the position of kill to defend, what would you kill for? We all said we would kill for America. Would you kill for God, for your spouse, children, the church?
- C. Anything that is on your list I would say you love. Now think about what is not on this list that should be or something on your list that shouldn't be there and adjust. Love isn't a feeling it's the manifestation of how much you care for something. So, remove the things on this list that shouldn't be there and work on the things that should be.

2. Live for Him

John 21:14-17 14This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. 15So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea,

Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 18Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. 19This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

- A. God asked Peter to manifest his level of love for him by living for him. “Feed my sheep”
“Follow me”

- B. What would you live for? Another words what is so important that you would devote your life to serve? Truly the only thing on this list should be God because he asks us to live for Him and I find it impossible to live for anything else as I wouldn’t be able to live just for Him if there is more than one thing. Furthermore, as you will find as we move on,

God is the only thing that meets all three standards. So, if we follow our standard, we should love Him more than anything.

- C. Anything on your list, you love. Now think about what is on your list that shouldn't be there and adjust. Love isn't a feeling it's the manifestation of how much you care for something so remove the things on this list that shouldn't be there and work on the things that should be.

3. Die for Him

Romans 5:8-11 5And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. 6For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his

life. 11And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

- A. God manifest his level of love for us by dying for us. “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - B. What would you die for? Again, we have all said we would die for America. Would you die for your parents, spouse, children, the church?
 - C. Anything on your list, you love. Now think about what is not on this list that should be or something on your list that shouldn't be there and adjust. Love isn't a feeling it's the manifestation of how much you care for something so remove the things on this list that shouldn't be there and work on the things that should be.
- 4. There is one other level of love that is unimaginable by me. What would you allow to die, for something you loved? God allowed His only son to die for us.**

Talking Points

1. How do you determine what you love?
2. What do you love?
3. Are there things in your life that need adjusting?
4. Ask your spouse what each of you can do to show one another you love them.
5. Evaluate different things in your life and assign them to this standard and see where they fall.

The Wife's Perspective

A wife long's for are acceptance and assurance. We live in a cruel world and often we are battered and bruised by those who love us. Yet, in the middle of these tribulations, our spouse is a gift from the Lord. The blessing of acceptance and assurance is that we are loved by our spouse, and he genuinely cares and loves me.

Every day we can encourage our spouse in some sort of way. A blessing spoken to his heart can uplift him and encourage him. We can communicate love by giving assurance in his abilities, his talents, and other gifts he may have.

Paul wrote to us in Ephesians 4:29, Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. In marriage, it is good to use words that bless and encourage.

Think of ways to bless your spouse daily. What can you do to make his/her day better? Always offer a listening ear, be ready to forgive, and most importantly speak kindly of your spouse to others. This is a demonstration of love.

7. Direction Vs Orders

When your CO spoke to the men, his comments were not filled with orders. It was his job to motivate and build trust in him so that when an order did come down his men already had trust in where it was coming from. If the only time our children hear from us is when we are handing down orders, they aren't going to trust us when we do need to give an order. Command level communication with our children is also "Mission Critical". It is imperative to the mission of raising them that we give them direction and motivation.

Proverbs 22:3-9 3A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. 4By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life. 5Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them. 6Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. 7The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. 8He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail. 9He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

1. The result of giving direction.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- A. The passage does not say your child it says a child. Therefore, this passage speaks to any child we may influence. This also speaks to those we allow to have influence over our children.
- B. The passage indicates that we should train our children in accordance with what is best for them, in contrast to them training us to what they think is best for them.
- C. We can all point to our military training and say it was an effective and proven way of training service members for any task they needed to be trained for. It wasn't always an enjoyable experience, nor did we always understand the purpose but none the less we knew what we needed to do when commanded to do it. We did it because we knew it was a proven method and it was the best way to stay alive.
- D. Because it was how we were trained, and it was so effective we often carry that method of training to other areas of life. We find

ourselves giving an order because we know what is in the best interest of our family only to find that we get a very different response than we are used to, and it infuriates us. We know what is safest for our family, we are issuing orders for the purpose of protecting them and they are defying them.

- E. Here is the difference, we are in a different atmosphere, they are not service members, and usually it's not a life-or-death situation.
- F. Our families require a lot more direction and explanation in their training. In training up a child and leading a wife for that matter part of our job is to explain the consequences of not doing it the way we directed them to.
- G. As Veterans we like to think of ourselves as some of the best leaders in the world and able to adapt to any situation. For that to be a true statement we must be able to adapt our training and leadership style as required so we are able to "Train up a child in the way he should go".

2. The result of giving orders.

Proverbs 22:8 He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

- A. Generally, when giving orders that are not followed it makes us angry and we institute some type of correction “the rod of his anger shall fail”.
- B. On receiving correction, our children, if they don’t understand why they are being corrected become angry and learn nothing.
- C. If the purpose of the order and correction is never explained they never learn anything and have not been trained. Therefore, we have not performed our job.
- D. Training is more than performing the act of correction it is also ensuring they obtained the benefit of the training.
- E. When we give our children proper training with explanation and direction in the event of a real life or death situation requiring an order, they are more likely to follow your orders because they now have a trust that if dad is telling me something it is in my best interest.

3. How do we do it?

Psalm 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

- A. Like me, you may not have a clue as to how or even when to give direction. As we were trained everything we do contributes to or takes away from a life-or-death situation and because of that there is no level 1 through 9 threats, everything is level 10. However, that's not the case in the matter of training children and leading families.
- B. God is always faithful to supply direction all we must do is follow it. In your prayers ask God to show you how to train your children and lead your families.
- C. Ask God and look for training opportunities. Look for ways to create training opportunities.
- D. Ask God to help you adjust your training method and when He does follow His direction.
- E. When you find yourself giving an order make it a training opportunity for both you and your children. Stop, redirect your method, and then move forward. Your children will recognize the change and begin to listen.

Talking Points

1. Can you think of a time with your children when you gave an order that wasn't followed, and it infuriated you to the point it got out of control?
2. How did you feel about the situation afterward, did it cause you regret, embarrassment, and create a larger divide making it more difficult to train them?
3. Have you ever thought about how you could have handled it differently to obtain a better result?

The Wife's Perspective

Parenting is difficult and is very different for a dad vs mom. The world will tell us to live up to certain expectations of perfection. God's expectations are entirely different. It's important that we focus on His ideals of perfection in our lives, and not the world's. Focusing on Him can bring us peace and direction as we parent.

There is no perfect dad or mom, this is simply a myth! We all have our struggles, fears, and failures. God has given us instructions of how to raise our children for His glory. Focusing on Him can bring us peace and direction as we give direction to our children.

Too often we are busy striving to be perfect parents and miss opportunities with our children in giving direction. It can often lead to rebellion and strain our relationship with them. It can also affect their relationship with God. We must be sure, as parents, that our focus is on Godly direction for our children.