

Honor and Support Husband-Wife Leadership

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What We Will Learn

- Share understanding to inspire positive husband-wife interactions
- God created marriage to combine man and woman into union of seamless complements
- Channels overall leadership of the union through the husband
- Assigns wife leadership and custodian of critical information in specific matters

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What We Will Learn cont'd

- Honor and support husband overall leadership
- Honor and support wife potential leadership
 - Custodian of information
 - Leader in specific matters

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Seamless Complements Adam and Eve

- God created woman to complement with man
 - Helper comparable to him
 - Helper from within
 - To join with the man as one flesh
 - So he will be adequate for his mission
- Genesis 2:18 and 22–24

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Seamless Complements Abraham and Sarah

- God interacted with Abraham on behalf of Abraham-Sarah
 - Abraham leadership of union
 - Abraham-Sarah as “one”
 - Promise to Abraham or commitment from him applied to Abraham-Sarah union
 - Seamless Abraham-Sarah communication

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Seamless Complements Wife As Custodian

- Sarah informed of need to separate Isaac from Ishmael
- Rebekah informed of relationship between Jacob and Esau regarding family inheritance
- Shunammite woman informed of need to accommodate Elisha in their home

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Honor and Support Family Leadership

- Example from Shunammite couple
- Developed lasting close relationship with Elisha and was abundantly blessed
- Discuss husband-wife interactions during three events in their life
 - Meeting Elisha
 - Providing long-term shelter for Elisha
 - “SOS” to Elisha regarding dead child

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Meeting Elisha: The Facts

- Woman met an interesting stranger
- Maybe at a public event
- Did not know he was Prophet Elisha
- Brought stranger home to share a meal
- Stranger shared meal with couple
- Meeting was a pleasant experience for Elisha
- And for the Shunammite couple
- 2 Kings 4:8

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Meeting Elisha: Discussion

- Husband accepted stranger for a meal
- Based only on wife’s information
 - Husband’s habit of trusting wife’s judgment?
 - Wife’s habit of protecting husband’s trust?
- Husband honored and supported wife’s leadership in act of compassion
- Family established lasting close relationship with Elisha without knowing him as Prophet

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Shelter for Elisha: The Facts

- Woman sensed stranger was man of God
- Proposed providing long-term shelter in their home for the stranger
- Recognized husband leader in such matters
- Asked with humility (Promise of obedience)
- And assurance husband will consider the proposal in good faith
- 2 Kings 4:9–10

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Shelter for Elisha: Discussion

- A call to compassion for husband-wife union
- Through husband or wife as leader
- The other is called to support the leader
- Husband honored and supported wife leadership in the call to compassion
- Wife honored and supported husband leadership for all business aspects of providing shelter for Elisha

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“SOS” to Elisha: The Facts

- Father sends sick child home to mother
- Mother cared for child but child dies
- Placed dead child on Elisha’s bed
- Requested husband for transportation
- To visit man of God at Mount Carmel
- Reassured husband with “it is well”
- Husband provides transportation
- 2 Kings 4:18–25

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“SOS” to Elisha: Discussion

- Husband honored wife to care for child better
- Wife accepted responsibility
- To care for child even after he died
- Honored and supported husband leadership
 - Informed him of trip to Mount Carmel
 - Requested transportation from him
- Husband honored and supported wife leadership as spiritual gateway for family

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“SOS” to Elisha Lesson

- Shunammite couple approach to honor and support family leadership
- Focus on action
 - Understand what needs to be done
 - And who should do it
- No FAULT or BLAME or GUILT
 - No fault—Seek solutions instead
 - No blame—apportion responsibilities instead
 - No guilt—establish methods instead

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What We Learned

- Honor and support husband overall leadership
- Honor and support wife as assigned custodian
- Honor and support wife assigned leadership
- Adopt Shunammite couple approach:
no FAULT, no BLAME, no GUILT
- Husband-wife union is stronger and effective
- But weaker and ineffective if honor or support for leadership is lacking

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