



Insights and Questions

If Your Husband Has Yet to Believe in Jesus

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Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over ² by observing your pure and reverent lives.

³ Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. ⁴ You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

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(1 Peter 3:1-6, NLT)

SESSION ONE: The Secret to Finding True Fulfillment

Allowing God to Meet Your Deepest Needs

The principles in this session are important for all women, but especially for you if your husband does not believe in Jesus. Your husband may be incapable of meeting some of your realistic expectations because he has not yet learned to draw upon God's strength. It is so important for you to allow God to meet your deepest needs.

As a woman whose husband does not believe in Jesus, what unique needs do you have?

How can God meet those needs?

Pray that as you walk through these sessions, the Holy Spirit will give you guidance for the challenges you face.

SESSION TWO: The Secret to Embracing His Differences

Understanding and Appreciating the Differences Between You and Your Husband

All men (and women) have differences that are sometimes difficult to live with. Even after your husband accepts Jesus, these distinctions won't disappear. Salvation happens the moment we accept Jesus as Savior. However, becoming like Jesus is a *process over time*. The Holy Spirit will shape you both to become Christlike, but you will still need to rely on Him to help you appreciate your differences and to be patient during the process. Ask God to help you see your husband with His eyes, and trust Him to work in your husband's life in His timing.

What can happen to your relationship if you expect your husband's differences to "disappear" after he accepts Jesus?

When you show your husband that you appreciate his differences, how can that draw him closer to accepting Jesus?



SESSION THREE: The Secret to Genuine Love Loving Your Husband with Jesus' Love

Unconditional love is *extremely* important for every marriage. If your husband does not believe in Jesus, he will come to know Him through the unconditional love you give him. John chapter 15 tells us that Christ responded to an unbelieving and sinful world by laying down his life; you are a tangible picture of Jesus to your husband. As difficult as it is, you must resist the urge to manipulate, criticize, or make him earn your love. Remember that you will find the strength to give unconditional love when you spend time daily being loved by God!

Describe how your unconditional, selfless love can help your husband come to know Christ?

What can you do to be filled with God's unconditional love so that it overflows to your husband?

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SESSION FOUR: The Secret to Meeting His Greatest Need Communicating Respect to Your Husband

If your husband does not adopt Christian lifestyle standards, showing him respect may be a great challenge for you. You may be tempted to act disrespectfully toward him when you disapprove of his decisions or behavior. But Scripture tells us to always *act respectfully* even when we disagree with our husband. This unconditional respect will speak to your husband more than any words (see 1 Peter 3:1-2).

On the other hand, God doesn't expect you to join your husband in activities that violate His commands. Ephesians 5:21 says, "Wives, submit to your husbands *as to the Lord*" (NIV). It's important for you to find a balance—not joining your husband in sinful activities, but not flaunting your righteousness as if you're better than him.

If your husband wants you to join him in an activity that violates God's commands, how can you say no while still being respectful?

What words or actions might make your husband feel like you're flaunting your righteousness as if you're better than him?



SESSION FIVE: The Secret to a Strong Inner Life

Pursuing Life in the Holy Spirit

The *Secrets* DVD includes the powerful story of Evangeline, the wife of an unbelieving husband. After her husband admitted to having affairs, Evangeline discovered the importance of having a strong inner life in order to endure. She decided not to “fix” her husband but to focus on doing what God wanted her to do—grow closer to Jesus and be kind to her husband. Evangeline’s husband eventually accepted Jesus and their marriage was restored. But it wasn’t because she convinced her husband—it was because her “pure and reverent life” attracted him and compelled him to search for God (see 1 Peter 3:1-4). Evangeline encourages wives to focus all their energy on personal growth and change, and leave their husband in God’s hands.

If you had the opportunity to watch the Secrets DVD, how does Evangeline’s story encourage you?

What can you do to display a pure and reverent life to your husband without words?

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SESSION SIX: The Secret to Growing Intimacy

Guarding Your Heart, Mind, and Marriage

Intimacy has the potential to be a source of contention in every marriage, especially if a husband doesn’t want to align his private life with the Bible’s standards. A wife in this situation needs to rely heavily on prayer and the Holy Spirit’s guidance. If your husband doesn’t accept the Bible, you can share Dr. Jim Vigil’s dissertation from a more scientific view. You can also get help by visiting PureLifeMinistries.org, SamsonSociety.org, OperationIntegrity.com, and Porn-Free.org. These ministries provide resources, healing, and guidance for the husband and wife affected by sexual sin. You can also visit NationalCoalition.org, CovenantEyes.com, and TeachTheTruthAboutSex.com to protect and educate your children.

What can you do to follow the principles from Session Six, even if your husband doesn’t agree with them?



SESSION SEVEN: The Secret to Staying in Love

Establishing Healthy Boundaries to Keep First Things First

Every wife needs to create healthy boundaries in order to keep her marriage as priority. Here are a few extra precautions for wives of unbelieving husbands:

- **Don't let church replace your husband.** While church may be your only spiritual support, it is important that your husband doesn't feel pushed aside by your involvements there.
- **Don't compare your husband with other Christian men.** Negative thoughts or words will only cause you to be dissatisfied, and your husband to resent you and your church.
- **Don't fall for another man who is Christian.** Your marriage is a covenant with God, and affairs are always wrong—even if the other man is a wonderful Christian. You may need to create extra boundaries in your friendships at church since your husband isn't there with you.
- **Let your actions lead your feelings, not the other way around.** No matter what you feel for your husband, pursue him as your first priority. Spend your energy on acts of kindness rather than trying to change him. Eventually your feelings will follow your actions, and you will see God rekindle your love for your husband!

Why might it be easy to let church replace your husband? How would this affect your marriage?

What boundaries can you create in your relationships at church in order to protect your marriage?

SESSION EIGHT: The Secret to Influencing Him

Positively Affecting Your Marriage with a Gentle and Quiet Spirit

1 Peter 3 tells us that a wife's gentle spirit will attract her husband in a deeper way than her physical appearance—even influencing him to accept Jesus! Eleanor's story from the *Secrets* DVD shows the powerful effect that gentle kindness has on a hard-hearted man.

Even so, accepting our husband's leadership can be difficult because we may feel a loss of control—especially if our husband is not serving God with his life. But verse 5 reveals the key—a wife needs to *trust God* for the outcome in every situation. This gives her the incredible strength of the great women in the Bible (verse 6).

If you had the opportunity to watch the Secrets DVD, how does Eleanor's story encourage you?

Now that you're finished with Secrets, how can these principles help you to focus on what you can change, and trust God with what you can't?

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