



Terms/idiom/Proverbs: **sth = something; sb = somebody.

[see <http://eflsuccess.com/common/> for common abbreviations and punctuation names]

Phrases/Idioms in the story:

babysit = to take care of children while their parents are away for a short time

drawback = disadvantage

make up your mind = make a decision; decide

see eye to eye with sb = have the same opinion with sb; completely agree with sb ***Sometimes parents and their children don't see eye to eye.***

sb's heart is set on doing sth = sb deeply wants to do sth, or insists on doing sth

do without sth = live without sth

a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity = a rare opportunity

sb is dead set against sth = sb is strongly opposed to sth

have hard feelings (about sth) (toward sb) = feel bitter; feel resentful and even angry

Larry and Mary got married five years ago. Mary used to be a secretary, but ever since they had 2 children, she hasn't worked outside their house. However, she helps out financially by babysitting neighbors' children in her house.

Larry has worked for a big oil company for the past 7 years. Recently, the company offered him a 2-year management position in Kuwait at a high salary. He is excited about the much higher salary and the opportunity to live in another country. However, there is one drawback to the promotion. According to the company's rule, he will have to leave his family behind because of a shortage of family housing and expected difficulties in raising a "Christian" family in a Muslim culture. Also, he can return to America only one time during the two-year job. COVID rules will also make it difficult (and expensive) for his family to visit him. The company has given Larry one week to make up his mind.

Larry and Mary have discussed this, and they don't see eye to eye. Larry has his heart set on going, but Mary is having hard feelings about Larry's "selfishness." She dreads doing without her husband for two years. She can't face the responsibilities of managing the family and house alone, with the money that Larry will send her. Larry, on the other hand, feels that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for him, and will provide the money for his family to buy a nice house.

Questions:

1. Talk about the image (boy with planes) used for today's lesson. Was it a good choice for this lesson? Why or why not?

2. When faced with a big decision, it is usually difficult or easy for you to make up your mind? Describe one time when it was difficult for you to make up your mind about something. Then share how you finally made a decision.
3. What will happen if Larry takes that overseas position for 2 years? Talk about the effect on their marriage, and then about the effect on their young children.
4. Each student should say if he/she thinks Larry should take that overseas job for 2 years. Explain why or why not.
5. If the roles were reversed, would you change your answer? That is, if Mary's profession offered the opportunity to work abroad for two years, while Larry stayed home and took care of their children and house while working part-time, do you think Mary should go abroad for 2 years? Why or why not?
6. In your home culture, is it common for a woman to become a full-time housewife after she has a child? What do you think about this practice? If you support the idea, then how many years should she be a full-time housewife?
7. If you could have a once-in-a lifetime opportunity sometime in the next 10 years, what would you like to do? Why?
8. What are you willing to do without in order to have a successful career? Explain.
9. What are you willing to do without in order to have a happy family? Explain

If you have more time, read and discuss this quote:

"The plan and purpose of the family is to prepare every individual for a creative and spirit-filled life. In coming to know who we are in the family, we are better able to give ourselves in loving service to others." ~Rev Angela Palacios, the Bahamas (<http://www.tribune242.com/news/2013/feb/14/gods-plan-and-purpose-family/>)

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May 7 2021~ Family faces Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity (Set 2, Lesson 8cez)

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make up your mind = make a decision; decide

see eye to eye with sb = have the same opinion with sb; completely agree with sb ***Sometimes parents and their children don't see eye to eye.***

do without sth = live without sth

a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity = a rare opportunity

Larry and Mary married five years ago. Mary was a secretary but has been a full-time housewife since they had 2 children. However, babysitting children in her house brings in a little money.

Larry has worked for a big oil company for 7 years. His company recently offered him a 2-year management position in Kuwait. He is excited about the much higher salary and the opportunity to live in another country. However, according to the company's rule, his family can't come with him because of a shortage of family housing/schooling/etc. Also, he can return to America only one time during the two-year job, and his family is not allowed to visit him (due to COVID). The company has given Larry one week to make up his mind.

Larry and Mary don't see eye to eye on this. Larry wants to go, but Mary thinks he is being "selfish." She dreads doing without her husband for two years. She can't face the responsibilities of managing the family and house alone, with the money that Larry will send her. Larry, on the other hand, feels that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for him, and his salary will give his family a better future.

Questions:

Content questions.

- a. How many years have Larry and Mary been married?
 - b. How many children do they have?
 - c. What is Larry's profession?
 - d. What was Mary's profession before she had kids?
 - e. Why doesn't Mary want Larry to take this job abroad?
 - f. Why does Larry want to take the job?
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1. When faced with a big decision, it is usually difficult or easy for you to make up your mind? (Each student should give a simple answer; then maybe one or two can explain.)
 2. Someone, please describe one time when it was difficult for you to make up your mind about something. Then share how you finally made a decision.
 3. What will happen if Larry takes that overseas position for 2 years? One student should talk about the effect on their marriage; another student can talk about the effect on their young children.
 4. Each student should say if he/she thinks Larry should take that overseas job for 2 years. Explain why or why not.
 5. In your home culture, is it common for a woman to become a full-time housewife after she has a child? What do you think about this practice? If you support the idea, then how many years should she be a full-time housewife?

6. Which is more important to you, career or family? That is, would you rather do without something valuable to have a successful career, or to have a happy family? Explain.
7. If you could have a once-in-a lifetime opportunity sometime in the next 10 years, what would you like to do? Why?

If you have more time, read and discuss this quote:

"The plan and purpose of the family is to prepare every individual for a creative and spirit-filled life. In coming to know who we are in the family, we are better able to give ourselves in loving service to others." ~Rev Angela Palacios, the Bahamas (<http://www.tribune242.com/news/2013/feb/14/gods-plan-and-purpose-family/>)

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These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from EFLsuccess.com (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission.

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