



NEXT VISION BLINDFOLDS

If you can **SEE** it, you can achieve it.

Lesson Goal

Together, we will identify and eliminate the things that the enemy has used to cloud our vision.

WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?

"As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, 'Strike this army with blindness.' So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked." | **2 Kings 6:19**

Blindfolds have the power to shroud our vision, causing confusion and immobilization. This state of confusion is what Solomon referred to:

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." | **Proverbs 29:19**

"When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild." | **Proverbs 29:18 NLT**

"If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves." | **Proverbs 29:18 MSG**

These passages illuminate the enemy's awareness and craftiness in using blindfolds to hinder our progress.

BLINDFOLD #1

TRADITION

This blindfold shackles our creativity.

TRADITION

GREEK: "instruction that has been handed down."

There are many traditions that are good and helpful. But it can also be used to condemn hurtful, human traditions.

"Jesus [asked], "...why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"
| **Matthew 15:3 NIV**

"One of the greatest barriers to true vision is the belief that God would never lead us to change what we have always done."

- George Barna

God is a God of Creativity.

When Elijah crossed the Jordan River, he struck the water with his mantle, creating a dry path to walk on. In his first miracle, Elisha replicated Elijah's final miracle. As Elisha matured, he learned to depend on God's creativity. Elisha chose to move in new and fresh ways.

COME ON, LET'S GET CREATIVE...

(Creativity is defined as the tendency to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives, or possibilities.)

BLINDFOLD #2 FEAR

This blindfold steals our focus.

Throughout the Bible, many great heroes lost their focus due to fear:

- Peter lost his focus while walking on water...
- The Children of Israel lost their focus in the wilderness...
- Samson lost his focus while entangled with Delilah...

"Don't allow fear to rob you of your vision for your marriage, your finances, your relationships, your career or ministry. Worse than failure is living with the regret of never having stepped out in faith to pursue your vision."

- Andy Stanley

Every vision involves elements of the unknown. In the early stages, there is more unknown than known. It's in this unknown territory that fear often thrives.

Write thoughts and verses that speak to a focused life: _____

BLINDFOLD #3 INDECISION

This blindfold chips away at our confidence.

*"...Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike this army with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. | **2 Kings 6:18***

That's decisive action. There's no second-guessing, no backtracking, just faith that God can do it and confidence that He will! Living with uncertainty, delay, worry, and fear of failure puts oneself in a dangerous position.

"When you live with indecision, life keeps running you over."

- Dr. Myles Monroe

Difficult decisions? Write them down along with a solution: _____

BLINDFOLD #4 FATIGUE

This blindfold drains our strength.

"Busy people don't 'schedule' tiredness, but it slips up on them when they least expect it. Fatigue is the silent cancer of our judgment and emotions. It robs us of creativity and secretly steals our potency and discernment. When we are tired, we tend to be more vulnerable and less careful. Our nerves stand on edge, our tempers flare, and even our simple problems seem insurmountable." -TD Jakes



Circle the words from this quote that apply to you personally:

Busy. Tired. Fatigued. Emotional. Lack Creativity. Lack Discernment. Vulnerable.
Less Careful. Nerves are Shot. Temperamental. Problems seem insurmountable.

Steps I will take to reduce fatigue: _____

BLINDFOLD #5

OPPOSITION

This blindfold hinders our progress.

It's an urge. Every champion has felt it. Every president has felt it. Every King has felt it. Every lion has felt it. Every winner has felt it. Every soldier has felt it. Every victorious person has felt it. The urge to quit. Don't you give up on your dream.

When you set off to do something great for the kingdom of God, **RESISTANCE WILL COME!** Myles Monroe said, *"Vision wakes up opposition. People of vision have found that the minute they decide to fulfill their vision, all their enemies seem to wake up."*

OPPOSITION

Collins Dictionary:

1. To act against or provide resistance to; combat.
2. To stand in the way of; hinder, obstruct.

Opposition? Write them down along with a solution: _____

ASSIGNMENT

Introduce yourself to five individuals whom you have never met before. Write down their names and highlight one distinctive feature about each person. Bring this assignment back next week.