

## **Excerpt from Chapter 6 – For Better or Worse**

As I tried to be transparent with others about what we were going through, I often hurt Lee in the process. At first, I didn't realize how things like talking to my parents about our poor health insurance coverage impacted him. He had to pull me aside later to let me know how embarrassed that made him feel in front of my family.

Another time, I came home and was telling Lee how happy I was that a girlfriend of mine got a new car. I really did not have a purpose in reporting this news other than to make conversation, but Lee took the comment in a very different way. He, bearing all the weight he was under, saw this conversation as a reminder that he could not provide certain things for me. This exchange somehow led to an intense argument. Once I explained the motives behind my comment, Lee felt better.

Lee took his job of being provider for our family very seriously and hated that he was struggling at it. Once I realized how conversations like this impacted him, I really tried to be more sensitive. Since I wasn't always sure what would hurt, I started praying that God would help me keep my tongue from saying things that intentionally, or unintentionally, would hurt Lee.