

NewSpring Church Groups Study Guide

Beautiful — Week 2 — A Wife Worth Finding

Proverbs 31 begins with the question, “A wife a noble character who can find?” The question implies that it is tough to find a good woman. Today, we’re going to talk about being a person of noble character and we’re going to see that the key to a noble character is the fear of the Lord.

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

- What would you consider the most important traits of a godly woman?
- You’ve probably wondered why there isn’t a chapter in proverbs about the virtuous man. What does the bible say are traits of a godly man?
- There are lots of things in this proverb that are not what women are doing these days. What is the job description for a noble wife? Has anything changed?
- What does “fear of the Lord” mean?
- How do you think everyone’s expectations of you are different from God’s expectations?
- How are we showing the women in our lives they are valuable? What are some practical ways we can honor our mother?
- It’s been said that one should offer their best gifts to their family. What God-given gifts do you think you have to offer your spouse or future spouse?

People watch us. As a Christ-follower, people watch us even when we don’t think they are watching. The people watching this Proverbs 31 woman, knew that she was dedicated. People could tell by her stature that she worked hard. Our prayer is that because we are dedicated to Jesus and desire to spend time with Him, people will see our actions and words and be drawn to Him. How are we showing Jesus to those around us?

MONDAY

Proverbs 31:30 - 31 says, “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.” How often do we show the people around us how much we appreciate what they do for us? When was the last time you encouraged someone with no ulterior motive? Today, think of a woman who is special to you and go out of your way to reward and praise her.

TUESDAY

Proverbs 31:25 says, "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." For many, worry is a crippling enemy. Jesus knew that we would worry when he said, "do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink: or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air: they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? At the core of our worry is a misunderstanding of control. A worrier thinks things like, "If I forget to turn off the coffee pot, the house will burn down," or "If I had spoke to them one more time, they would have not been in the wreck," or "If I don't look carefully and shake out the blanket, a poisonous spider will bite my baby." In each case, an illogical jump is made from our action or inaction to a future result. When those kinds of statements are written down they seem pretty ludicrous, but many struggle constantly with a barrage of this kind of thinking. Know that there is a great freedom in releasing control to Jesus. You don't really think you're in control of the future anyway, do you? Acknowledging that Jesus is in control and realizing that you are valuable to Him is the key to "laughing at the days to come." Jesus wants us to enjoy living in this moment and he wants us to look forward to the future that He has planned. You can laugh at the future because through Christ you have found dignity and strength to overcome worry. What worries do you need to give to Jesus?

WEDNESDAY

Proverbs 31:29 says, "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Wonder Woman really had her act together. She had that golden lasso and the invisible airplane and she went around beating up bad guys and deflecting bullets. Martha Stewart is a stay at home grandmother who makes seven figures as an entrepreneur, volunteers 30 hours a week at the homeless shelter and she spends her spare time reading, decorating pumpkins, playing with her 3 grandkids, having earth-shattering sex with her husband before baking cookies, packing lunches, and editing her magazine. Actually, Wonder Woman is made up. Martha Stewart has a show on t.v where's she's perfect but in real life went to jail for 4 counts of obstructing justice and lying to federal investigators. Nobody is perfect and anyone that is claiming to be is an actor or just selling you something. Many of us are pressured to be perfect. We all feel the need to put on our alter ego from time to time: we want to distance our persona from our personality. We don't want people to see how messy everything really is. The lie we believe is that we're the only ones with problems. Romans 3:23 says that we've all fallen short of God's glory. None of us have it all together. Are you the same in private as you are in public? What steps can you take to close the gap between your personality and your persona? Do you realize that God loves you no matter what?

THURSDAY

Proverbs 31:26-27 says, "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." Do you find it hard to say "no"? People that can't say "no" do too much and get tired fast. What were you put on this planet to do? Understanding who you are created for and what you are created to be helps you dismiss the guilt of saying "no" to things outside your purpose and keeps you from the clutches of the comparison trap. What are

some things you need to wisely say “no” to? What are some things you need to stop doing so that you can focus on your purpose? We need to start saying “yes” more often to Him! God wants us to start pleasing him and not worry so much about pleasing people.

FRIDAY

Proverbs 31:20 says, “She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.” What is your daily focus? Is it outward appearance, money, power, success, or status? Understand that all these things are short-lived. What are the things that you can do today that will make an eternal impact? It may be a small thing to you like a smile, or conversation, or an invitation to church or a forgiving heart. As you move through the day, be aware of how your attitude affects the people around you. Notice how the extra time you spend speaking with someone changes their day. Realize that the small things are many times the most important things. Focus on what matters to God. People matter to God.

SATURDAY

Look at all that the Proverbs 31 woman does. She brings...she selects...she gets up...she considers...she sets...she sees...she holds...she opens...she makes...she speaks...she laughs...she watches...and much more. She is a leader. She comes in contact with a lot of people everyday. Who are you leading? Probably more people than you think. Your spouse, your children, your family, co-workers, friends, and neighbors are influenced everyday by decisions you make and actions you take. Leadership is influence. While you may be thinking “I’m too busy to lead” or “I don’t know enough to lead” or “my life is too messy to lead,” people all around you are watching what you do and say. Who are you leading right now? Who are you influencing through your action or inaction? What changes do you need to make to widen your circle of influence?

SUNDAY

Truthfully, you know that you are doing everything you can do. You fear the Lord, you love your family. You’re doing more than you thought possible. Despite your devotion, there has been no reward, no recognition. Come to think of it you’d happily surrender any praise or reward for a two day vacation because you are tired. Dog tired. If that’s you, rest in this truth.

“The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall: but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:28-31).