

# Wisdom For Leaders And Ladies

Proverbs 31

## MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 31:30

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.”

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

One sheet of white cardstock for every four children, cut into quarter pieces, safety pins and markers.

A straw for every student, four bowls, aluminum foil cut into 2”x 2” pieces (crumbled up into nickel sized wads).

## ATTENTION GETTER!

### Make a Name Tag

For this activity, you will need one sheet of white cardstock cut into quarter pieces for every four children, safety pins, and markers. Give each child a quarter sheet of cardstock and some markers. Have them write their name down the side of the nametag. Then like an acrostic, have the children think of virtues or godly traits that would be good for them to exhibit in their lives. See the example below. Ask the children to decorate their name tag and pin it onto their shirts.

As young men and women, we should be more concerned about being godly than how we look and other things that do not matter.

Example:

	○	○
<b>C</b>	-	Caring
<b>A</b>	-	Always dependable
<b>R</b>	-	Reliable
<b>O</b>	-	Obedient
<b>L</b>	-	Loves Jesus
<b>I</b>	-	Industrious
<b>N</b>	-	Nice
<b>E</b>	-	Extends kindness

## LESSON TIME!

Unlike the first 30 chapters of the book of Proverbs, where the wisdom is being handed down from a father, this last chapter ends with a mother exhorting her son in the ways of leadership and what to look for in a godly woman. When we are walking in the fear (deep respect) of the Lord, our lives will reflect godly character. **Godly virtues are a result of fearing the Lord.**

### PROVERBS 31:1, 2

The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:

What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?

Nowhere else in Proverbs or the Bible for that matter, do we read about King Lemuel. The name Lemuel means "belonging to God," and some believe that this may have been another name for King Solomon, the child of David and Bathsheba. We do know that the mother of Lemuel was a woman who feared the Lord and sought to pass on godly wisdom to a son she deeply loved.

### PROVERBS 31:3-5

Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink;

Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted.

The mother reinforces the previous teaching in Proverbs. A relationship with adulterous woman would have serious consequences—He would be made weak. Such a relationship would have a destructive effect on his mind, will, and emotions.

She also exhorts her son to guard himself against drinking, pointing out the dangers of alcohol. Involvement with alcohol would affect his sound judgment and decision-making as a leader.

We are God's royal children. Because we belong to Him, we should not engage in things that can destroy us. If we involve ourselves in ungodly relationships or choose things that are not good for us, we will reap the consequences of doing such things. Let us instead, stick close to the Lord, looking to Him for guidance and listening to our parents when they teach us about God and His ways. Our lives will reflect the character He desires. **Godly virtues are a result of fearing the Lord.**

#### **PROVERBS 31:8, 9**

**Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die.**

**Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.**

The mother encourages her son to be bold to deliver justice—to speak in defense of those who are wrongfully accused and to plead the cause of the poor and needy. God defends the defenseless and takes up the cause of the poor and needy. As children, let us be like our Father and seek to help the helpless whenever opportunity comes. We do not need to be rulers of a kingdom to speak the truth and help those that are needy. **Godly virtues are a result of fearing the Lord.**

### PROVERBS 31:10

Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

The mother now gives her son a portrait of a godly woman, one he should choose to be a wife and mother for his children. She details her characteristics, but warns that she is not going to be easy to find. She is rare and precious, more valuable than rubies. The virtuous woman does not come by virtue naturally. Later the secret for the virtue that shows in her life is revealed—she “fears” the Lord.

### PROVERBS 31:11, 12

The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

The godly woman will be trustworthy. Her desire will be to bless and build her husband up; her actions will follow her desires.

### PROVERBS 31:13-15

She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.

She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.

She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.

This second virtue speaks about the woman being industrious. She works hard to supply for the needs of her family and anyone else that may be living in her home. She is not lazy. She takes care of her family by cooking and serving them. If we are loving and serving the Lord, we desire to serve others too!

#### PROVERBS 31:16-19

She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.

She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.

She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle.

Thirdly, this woman is very resourceful. She knows how to shop and look for the best deals. She is not unwise with her time or money. She stays busy taking care of her household. Apparently, she knows the best way to invest the family's money so the family will be well taken care of. This kind of wisdom only comes from a life that is devoted to the ways of the Lord. We cannot serve God and be selfish at the same time. **Godly virtues are a result of fearing the Lord.**

#### PROVERBS 31:20

She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

Just like the mother was telling her son to be compassionate on those less fortunate, she is also telling him to look for the same virtue in a wife. This godly woman is not only looking out for her own family but keeps her eyes and heart open to see the needs of those around her. Again, this woman is not selfish with her time or money. **Godly virtues are a result of fearing the Lord.**

### PROVERBS 31:21-25

She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet.

She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.

Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.

Not only does the godly woman know how to buy and sell, she does not worry about tomorrow because she is prudent in making sure her family has their needs met in advance.

Notice again, the industriousness of this woman. She not only makes her own clothes, clothing herself and her household, but makes linen garments and sashes to sell as another way to provide for her family. She was faithful to use the talents God gave her, as a seamstress, in a way that would please God and bless others. God desires that we use the talents He has given us to please God and bless others.

## Speaking with Wisdom

Play this simple variation of the Telephone Game to show how important it is to watch what we say. Read Proverbs 31:26. Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one student to go first and have them whisper something into the ear of the person sitting in his clockwise direction. Ask the children to pass along the secret going around until it comes back to the original person and then see how accurate it is.

You may wish to have two different teams sitting in circles. As the teacher, you can whisper the same word to the first person in each group and see which group remains the closest to what you said. This game will help the children realize how careful they need to be with their words.

### PROVERBS 31:26-29

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

“Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.”

When a godly woman speaks, she uses wisdom. Her words are governed by the law of kindness. She does not hurt or abuse with her mouth. Because this woman fears the Lord, she loves, obeys, and serves Him, and she loves and serves her family. Her family comes first after her relationship with God.



As a result of this woman being virtuous, her children and her husband give her praise. Her husband thinks and believes that his wife is the best wife on earth. Perhaps, King Lemuel's mother is telling him, "You need to let your wife know how special she is." **Godly virtues are a result of fearing the Lord.**

### PROVERBS 31:30-31

**Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.**

**Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.**

The proverb ends with the mother exhorting the son not to base his choice for a wife on the outward appearance. Just because someone is beautiful to look at does not mean there is beauty within. In 1 Peter 3:3-4, women are exhorted, "Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel. Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."

This woman who walks in the fear of the Lord will receive His blessing and be blessed by those around her. The seeds of love—selflessness, generosity, industry, and prudence—she has planted are certain to grow and blossom

Will we choose to walk in the fear of the Lord? If so, our lives will reflect godly virtues and will be blessed by God. Others close to us will be blessed and will seek to bless us in return. **Godly virtues are a result of fearing the Lord.**

## **The Diligence Game**

This game will reinforce the importance of diligence in our lives. Review the importance of diligence to the class. For this game, you will need a straw for every student, four bowls, aluminum foil cut into 2" x 2" pieces (crumbled up into about 20 nickel sized wads).

Divide the aluminum wads in half and place 10 in each of two bowls. Divide the class into two teams and have them line up. At the beginning of each line, place the bowl with the 10 aluminum wads on the floor. At the other end of the classroom, place the empty bowl. Give each child a straw. The object will be to get all of the wads from one bowl to the other across the classroom by sucking air through the straw and holding the wad with the straw and carrying it to the other bowl. The first group to get all 10 to the other bowl is the winner. It will take a lot of diligence because it is not as easy as it sounds.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to fear the Lord the Lord and desire to be the best they can be in whatever God has called them to do—whether husbands, wives, or leaders. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.