

Introduction: How to encourage the women in your life

- It's a "tough time" to be a woman
- Understanding Proverbs 31
- The intent of Proverbs 31

1. What does God admire most in a woman?

Godly character expressed in _____

¹⁰ A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. ¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. ¹² She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

Proverbs 31:10-12 (NIV)

Don't take her for _____.

Godly character expressed in her _____

¹³ She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. ¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. ¹⁵ She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.

Proverbs 31:13-15 (NIV)

Be sensitive to the demands on her _____.

Godly character expressed in her _____

¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. ¹⁸ She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹ In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

Proverbs 31:16-19 (NIV)

Provide her windows of _____.

Godly character expressed in her _____

²⁰ She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

Proverbs 31:20 (NIV)

Affirm her _____ and impact.

Godly character expressed in wise _____ and _____

²¹ When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. ²² She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

Proverbs 31:21-22 (NIV)

Give her permission to be good to _____.

2. What is the impact of this godly woman's life?

- In her Marriage:

²³ Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

Proverbs 31:23 (NIV)

Remind her of her role in your _____.

- In her work:

²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.

Proverbs 31:24 (NIV)

Cooperate with her creativity and _____ transitions.

- In her world:

²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. ²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Proverbs 31:25-27 (NIV)

Focus compliments on internal character
not simply _____.

3. What is this kind of woman's reward?

²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." ³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Proverbs 31:28:31 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Share your fondest memory that involves a special time or experience with your mother.
2. What does God most admire in a woman's life? Why? How is that different from the world?
3. What new insights did you gain from this passage about women? About relationships? About encouragement?
4. What are some practical ways you can encourage the special women in your life? What specifically will you do? How will you know when it is accomplished?