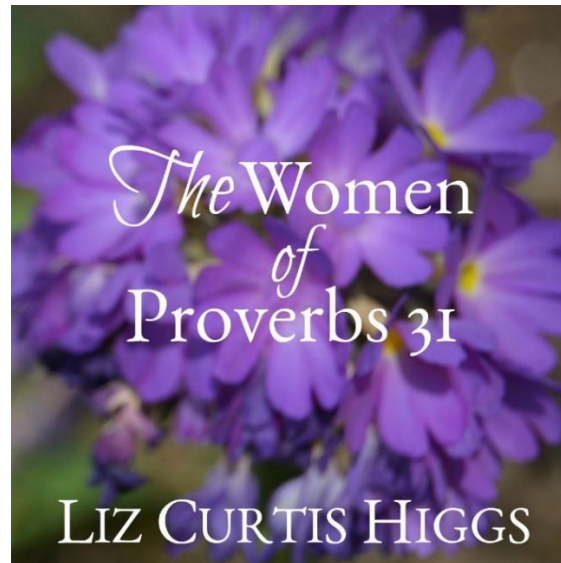


Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network
Bible Study Guide for May 12-13, 2018 | The Women of Proverbs 31 Part 1

Prepared by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. Often a study of Proverbs 31 begins with verse 10. Instead, read Proverbs 31:1-9 first. What clues can you find regarding the identity of this young king and his mother? What do you make of her supernatural “utterance” (NIV), “prophecy” (KJV), “vision” (DRA), or “oracle” (LEB) from God? And what of her cautionary advice for her royal son? How might her counsel apply to our own sons and daughters today?
2. How have you viewed the Proverbs 31 woman in the past? Has her long list of attributes and talents encouraged you? intimidated you? challenged you? In what ways might my “best of womanhood” approach alter your thinking about this passage? How do Proverbs 11:16 and Proverbs 14:1 describe a wise and virtuous woman? And if these are indeed the words of Bathsheba, how might that affect your understanding of Proverbs 31?
3. Verse 10 asks, “A wife of noble character who can find?” (NIV). Are such women indeed rare? Think of several women you know well. Which one might you call “valiant”? Which one is “bold”? Who best fits the word “intelligent”? “prosperous”? “courageous”? “capable”? “powerful”? Do any of the women you know embody *all* those qualities, or does each one display a particular strength? How would *you* describe a contemporary woman of noble character? What does she do, day in and day out, that impresses you?

4. In verse 11 we learn, ““The heart of her husband trusts in her” (NASB). If you are married, would you say your husband trusts you in everything? Why or why not? If you are not married at the moment, who else might trust you with their heart? What does 1 Timothy 3:11 teach us about how to be trustworthy women? Titus 2:3-5 also offers a list of attributes and activities that mark a godly woman. Whatever your age, how are you pouring into the next generation, as this passage urges?

5. Proverbs 31 continues with the many tasks a godly woman might pursue, adding in verse 18 that “her lamp does not go out at night.” How would you interpret that truth from God’s Word? In what ways might my thoughts on burning the candle at both ends, and Jill Briscoe’s challenge to “burn on, instead of burning out” speak to you? When we are setting priorities, what do the following verses tell us matters above all else: Deuteronomy 6:5; Proverbs 4:23; 1 Peter 4:8? And what verse(s) might you consider a vital guideline for your life?

6. What’s the most important lesson you’ve learned from the mother of King Lemuel’s “best of womanhood” list so far?