

1 – DIRECTIONS:

Over the next few weeks, we will discuss "4 Proverbs for the People." Each week, we will cover a different proverb and then look at how this wisdom literature should make a difference in the life of a Christian.

Take time each week to discuss the proverb, as well as pray for one another, and look to see how applying the proverb will make a difference in your obedience to God through Christ.

Please utilize The Moody Bible Commentary to help with any of the passages listed to the right. Any additional resources that you have that might make your discussion more lively, please use those as well. Your prayers and preparation for facilitating the discussion will help others learn and grow as Christians.

To grow as Christians, the emphasis should be faith in Christ and obedience to Him, not **only** on knowing Bible passages. Help one another in your group grow in faithful obedience to what you discuss in group time. Pray for each other as you meet.

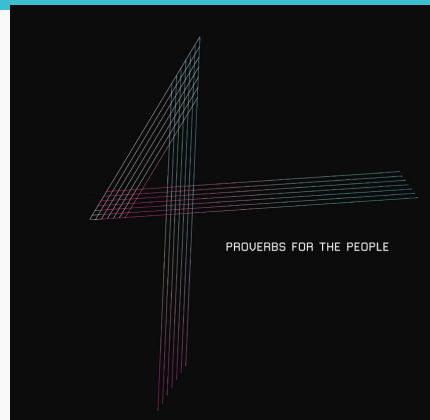
2 – BIBLICAL TEXTS:

Proverbs 31:10–31 [ESV]

10 An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.
11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
13 She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.
14 She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.
15 She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.
16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
17 She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.
18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night.
19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
20 She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.
21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.
22 She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.
24 She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.
25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
27 She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.
29 "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

3 – QUESTIONS:

- How would you describe the "perfect" woman or man in terms of who they are and how they live their life? What types of influences contribute to how you are describing the "perfect" person?
- What stood out to you most in Proverbs 31? Why do you think that particular thing stood out to you in this moment?
- Pastor Lori focused on verses 25 and 26 of Proverbs 31. Her call to us was to focus on the character of the Proverbs 31 woman. Why is it important to focus on the character of this woman? In what way(s) are you focused on having Jesus transform your character? Can people in their golden years of life still be transformed? Why or why not?
- Consider the story of Lydia in Acts 16. What clue in the text of Acts 16:14 might lead you to believe that Lydia is a woman of godly character (Acts 16:14 has a similarity to Proverbs 31:24)? What other stories from Scripture highlight the godly character of women? Why is it important to know that God uses both women and men?



4 – GOING FROM HERE:

As you conclude, consider your character and where you need Christ to transform you. You might even spend 10–15 minutes sharing and praying for one another to be transformed. Seek to be honest and vulnerable with each other so that you can not only grow in Christ, but also grow relationally with one another.

Furthermore, consider who exhibits the qualities and characteristics of the Proverbs 31 woman and send a letter or text, or call them to encourage and thank them for their testimony through their actions and attitude.

Finally, utilize the time schedule that Pastor Lori used in her message on Sunday, September 11 as a way to consider where you can redeem your time to love and serve God. We live in a hectic and overstimulated culture, we are often running 90mph with our hair on fire. Looking at ways to use our schedules and redeem our time can be a great way to develop a more godly character... with the help of the Holy Spirit, of course.