



Talk it Over

PASTOR DAVE — PROVERBS — MARRIAGE - FAMILY - FRIENDS - COMMUNITY — 3/2-3/25

KEY SCRIPTURE

Proverbs

The Virtuous Woman

Proverbs 31:10–31

Partial...

10 Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

11 Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.

12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it.

14 She is like a merchant's ship, bringing her food from afar.

15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.

Continue in a Bible

Pastor Dave's Paraphrase

10 **A**n excellent wife is hard to find and more precious than rubies

11 **B**elieve her! trusts the husband as she enriches his life

12 **C**ontributes good not harm describes the virtuous wife

13 **D**aily she finds wool and flax to spin

14 **E**ven far off place provide for her table

15 **F**irst thing every morning she rises to prepare breakfast and plan the day

START TALKING

Pastor Dave talked about up until a couple hundred years ago family life demanded a distinct separation of duties between the husband and wife. The husband typically took on responsibilities that required physical strength, protection, warfare, leadership, and economic provision. The wife primarily managed household affairs, playing a critical role in domestic production, family care, and resource management. Her role was essential for family stability and survival.

How would a week in the life of an ancient family differ than today? Would you like to live in 1000 B.C.? Just visit? Or stay in 2025?

START DISCUSSING

The Husband and Wife

Pastor Dave mentioned that there are a number of verses that describe a great wife and some that describe a difficult wife. At first it looks like nothing negative is said about a husband's duties in marriage. However, he felt most of Proverb's statements about fools, laziness, integrity would have been directed more at the husband, as his responsibilities took him outside the home as a laborer or business owner. When the author turns to the home, the statements would be more about the wife, and the atmosphere that she creates with her labor and attitude.

Have someone read 31:10-31 about the Virtuous Woman

These verses were written in Hebrew as an acrostic, there are 22 letters in the Hebrew Alphabet. The reason was likely to aid in memorization. For boys, to be reminded of the kind of girl to marry. For girls, this is the ideal wife. You can see from 31:1 that the words were taught to King Lemuel by his mother. So down through the centuries this text has been studied, quoted, and referenced thousands of times. So, let's take some time and look closely at these 22 verses.

AN ICE CREAM CHALLENGE

The Peterson family has a tradition called the Milkshake Challenge. At the beginning of the summer, while on vacation, or any time we wanted to add a little fun, we would pick a goal for each child, and when the child accomplished the task, we would all celebrate with milkshakes. Now we do it with our grandchildren, the most recent was playing the G-Scale on the guitar perfectly for the teacher.

So here is the Life Group Ice Cream Sundae Challenge

Work together to write a paraphrase of the 22 verses using a subsequent letter of the English alphabet for each verse. You can skip a letter if you get stuck (put points will be deducted). Send the masterpiece to Pastor Dave.

Whichever Life Group does the best job will be provided Ice Cream Sunday Fixin's

