Truth! Wisdom for Flourishing People What kind of woman do you want to be? Proverbs 31:10–31

Life throws at us all kinds of situations that cannot be solved easily. We're in need of more than just simple solutions. We have complex problems that require greater insight and understanding. The reason we need this is because these problems stand in the way of flourishing. What we need is wisdom for flourishing. We are in need of truth, truth that can guide us to solve complex everyday problems. Where best to turn than to Truth—the Wisdom of Scripture.

Be the kind of a woman that knows her value, serves others wisely, and receives praise from those who matter most.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- · What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Proverbs 31:10-31

- 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.
- What kind of woman do you think our culture wants women to be?
- When you've read, studied, or heard Proverbs 31 taught before, what kind of woman have you heard portrayed in this passage?
- Whether man or woman, where does our value come from? Why is it essential we find our value there and no where else?

- Think about the women in your life. How has God uniquely wired them, and how have they added value to your life?
- One of the key elements of the Proverbs 31 woman is that she is a servant. How
 does the author describe how this woman serves?
- One of the key elements of both Jesus' ministry and teaching was service. Read Mark 10:35–45. How does Jesus' description of a servant compare to the Proverbs 31 woman.
- What are specific ways woman can embody what Jesus says in Mark 10?
- Because of the character of this woman, she is praised. As a woman, whose praise do you want the most? What does this tell you about yourself?
- Husbands, sons, and daughters, what can you do to praise your wives, mothers, and special women in your life?
- Ladies, what kind of woman do you want to be?
- What needs to change in your life to become that kind of woman?