## Week One

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

PROVERBS 31:10-12

## Day 1

Let's start this journey by making one thing clear: Proverbs 31 is not a job description or a checklist that earns you God's approval, love, or salvation once you complete it. It's a passage reminding us of who we are in Him. Our works, talents, successes, and "good girl" status do not save us. Only by His great mercy and the redeeming work of Jesus Christ are we saved. Proverbs 31 is about the woman you are and can be in Christ and only in Christ.

This passage is much like a parent telling a child as they leave home, "Remember who you are and whose you are." Remembering whose we are is what gives us the courage to be who we are. You are a daughter of the King—an eshet chayil, in Hebrew. Don't worry, it's a compliment. For now, you'll have to take my word for it, but we'll discuss this in depth over the next few days.

Because of the cross, we can walk in courage, not fear. In Him, we can be strong, not weak. In Romans 8:37, Paul writes, "We are more than conquerors." How? "Through Him who loved us." You see, even though our good works, skills, and gifts matter, they're not what give us victory and strength. God gives us conquering strength and victory through the power of the Holy Spirit because He loves us. Let's lean into Him!

You can and should live a life of "noble character" through the power of the Holy Spirit, but it does not earn you salvation and it does not make you more lovable. It has taken me years to understand this, and with each passing day, moment, and opportunity, I have to choose to believe it.

Because He is our Savior, we can live and serve Him freely, not in bondage to a "hustle hard" lifestyle. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the

gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). That word, "gift," means you don't work for it; you simply receive His saving grace. Because our hope is in our Savior, not our works, we can courageously walk in freedom as daughters of the King.  In what ways are you relying on His saving work, and in what
ways are you still relying on your working hands?
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## Day 2

In the original Hebrew, Proverbs 31:10 starts with the words eshet chayil. Eshet is a form of the word ishah, which is Hebrew for both "woman" and "wife." Chayil can be translated as "virtuous" (KJV), "excellent" (ESV), or "noble" (NIV), but in most of the Old Testament, it's used to describe courageous, capable warriors. So let's translate eshet chayil as "woman of valor."

We are women of valor because God is in us. We are women of noble character, courage, and strength because our hope is in our Savior. You, my sister, have influence right where God has planted you, and don't let the enemy tell you any different.

Not only do you have influence—you are also valuable. The second sentence of Proverbs 31:10 says, "She is far more precious than jewels" (ESV) or "She is worth far more than rubies" (NIV). Regardless of the translation, the point is made: You are valuable. Not because you have a high-powered career, because you homeschool your kids, or because you live in a nice house, but because you are made in God's image.

Friends, let us boldly proclaim this God-given identity as we confidently stand in His truth and lean into His Spirit for wisdom. Let us be women on a mission, ready and audacious, willing to face each task and trial set before us because we know God is on our side.

Today, take a few moments to reflect on the women of valor God has placed in your life and stop to thank God for two of them by name.



What about Proverbs 31 gives you clues that this is not one day in the life of a woman but rather various seasons in a woman's life? There's no right or wrong answer. To get you started, look at verse 12. It says, "all the days of her life."
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Where in this poem do you see life-giving words that celebrate courageous women who are clothed with strength, dignity, and trust in God? What character traits do you see in yourself from this passage? Again, there are no right or wrong answers.