



LIFE Group Discussion Guide

May 10, 2026

Proverbs 31:16-31

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

OPENING

When you think of someone who lives a truly meaningful and impactful life, what qualities stand out to you?

Proverbs 31 is often known for describing a "virtuous woman," but this passage ultimately paints a picture of godly character in action—a life marked by diligence, strength, generosity, wisdom, and reverence for God.

Today we'll see that a life that honors God is built on character, not just accomplishments.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Proverbs 31:16–31** aloud together.

- Verses 16–18 — Diligence and initiative
- Verses 19–22 — Work and provision
- Verses 23–27 — Influence and responsibility
- Verses 28–31 — Honor and lasting legacy

Ask the group to listen for:

- Character traits described
- Actions that reflect those traits
- What is most valued in the end

PASSAGE SUMMARY

This passage is part of a larger description of a godly woman, but the principles apply broadly to anyone pursuing a life that honors God.

We see:

- A person who works diligently and wisely
- Someone who serves others and cares for those in need
- Strength, dignity, and resilience in daily life
- A focus on long-term impact rather than short-term recognition

The key verse is near the end: “A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (v.30)
This reminds us that reverence for God is the foundation of a meaningful life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What qualities or characteristics stand out most to you in this passage? Why?

Common responses: diligence, strength, generosity, wisdom, consistency. These reflect a life of intentional, God-centered living.

This person is described as hardworking and proactive. What does this teach us about the role of diligence in a godly life?

Godly character includes responsibility and effort. Faith is not passive—it shows up in how we work and steward what we've been given.

How do you see strength and dignity displayed in this passage (v.25)? What might that look like today?

Strength: perseverance, resilience in difficulty.

Dignity: confidence rooted in identity, not circumstances.

Today: handling challenges with faith, not panic or insecurity.

The passage highlights care for others, including the poor (v.20). Why is generosity an important part of godly character?

It reflects God's heart. A life focused only inward misses the purpose of serving others.

Verse 26 speaks of wisdom and kindness in speech. Why is what we say such an important indicator of character?

Words reveal the heart. Speech can build up or tear down, and it often reflects what we truly value.

Verse 30 says charm and beauty are fleeting. Why is it important to focus on internal character over outward appearance or success?

External things fade, but character lasts. God values who we are becoming more than how we appear.

This passage ends with a picture of lasting impact and respect. What kind of legacy does a God-honoring life leave behind?

A legacy of faith, influence, and impact on others. It points people to God rather than self.

APPLICATION

Which character quality in this passage do you most need to grow in right now? Why?

Encourage specific reflection (diligence, generosity, speech, faith, etc.).

What is one practical way you can reflect godly character in your daily responsibilities this week?

Examples: working with excellence, serving someone intentionally, being mindful of words.

How can you intentionally prioritize your relationship with God as the foundation for everything else in your life?

Time in Scripture, prayer, obedience, and aligning daily decisions with God's truth.

DIG DEEPER

How does this passage challenge modern ideas of success and value?

In what ways can busyness distract us from developing true character?

Why is "fearing the Lord" the thread that ties all these qualities together?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Encourage reflection:

This passage isn't calling us to perfection—it's calling us to pursue a life shaped by God's character.

Ask: **Am I more focused on what I accomplish, or who I am becoming?**

This week, focus less on image and more on character—especially in the small, unseen moments.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we will continue our series, “**Uncommon Sense: God’s Wisdom in a Foolish World**”, as we discuss **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for showing us what a life of godly character looks like.
- Ask Him to shape our hearts, not just our actions.
- Pray for strength to live with integrity, diligence, and compassion.
- Pray specifically for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

COMMENTARY

Proverbs 31:16-31

31:16-17. It requires tremendous strength to earn the extra money to buy a vineyard, then to clear it of stones, plant the vines, dig a winepress, and build a tower to protect it (Isa 5:2).

31:18. The burning lamp symbolizes long life and prosperity (20:20).

31:19. The spinning staff and spindle were used to make thread and to twist it into yarn.

31:22. These bed coverings were probably for comfort and decoration (7:16). Fine linen may have been imported from Egypt, and purple dye came from Phoenicia (Ezek 27:7).

31:23. She enabled her husband to sit among the elders, a respected local authority.

31:24. She sells everything, from the inner linen garments that are put on first, to the outer belt or sash.

31:25. She has strength like the young and honor like the old (20:29).

31:26. Her instruction arises out of wisdom and love.

31:28-31. Here the wife is recognized and rewarded for her character and works. Even if all the rare capable women were gathered, her husband says she would surpass them. Charm is grace or favor (11:16; 22:1), and beauty is outward appearance (6:25; Ezek 16:14); both are temporary. The end reward of wisdom depends on its beginning: the fear of the Lord.