

Proverbs: Great Advice for Everyday Living

Lesson 29 - Superwoman

Warm up -

1. Who do you think most represents the idea woman?
 - Mary Poppins
 - Princess Leia
 - Mother Teresa
 - Jael (see Judges 4:14-22)
 - other:
2. Name the five strong women portrayed in popular culture - movies, TV shows, books, or music.
3. What women do you look up to most? What qualities do you like about her?

Lesson -

The book of Proverbs has as its theme, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." It begins with the words of Lady Wisdom crying loudly in the streets; it ends with this portrait of the ideal woman whose life shows the practical everyday results of living according to "the fear of the Lord."

Now, for anyone who still believes that the ideal Christian woman is a shy, quiet, stay-behind-the-scenes soccer mom, this passage should be required reading. The "wife of noble character," as she is called, is some kind of Superwoman. She buys fields, she farms, she oversees business transactions, she sews all kinds of clothing. She takes care of her family, and the poor and helpless besides. She's amazing!

So what's the point here? you may be wondering. Isn't this woman some kind of unrealistic idea, someone I could never hope to be like? NO! The point is this: men and women who put God first are blessed. Their lives bear the generous fruit of the Holy Spirit's work - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - and point to their Creator.

That's a mighty good reason for putting the "fear of the Lord" first in our lives. God will take care of the rest.

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

1. As you read this passage, look for a physical description of this "wife of noble character."
2. Make a list of all her accomplishments.
3. What is the source of her accomplishments?
4. According to most TV programs and movies, what qualities does the ideal woman have? The ideal man? Does Proverbs 31 describe the same qualities?
5. No one person is really gifted to do all this. What should we learn from this list?
6. Guys, how would you describe the ideal middle school woman? Girls, how would you describe the ideal middle school man? Compare lists. Do your descriptions match what is considered the ideal at your school?
7. Many teenagers read fashion magazines like *Seventeen*, *YM*, *Mademoiselle*, and others. These magazines portray an image of women - and men too - that often contradicts the ideal of Proverbs 31. Is there anything wrong with reading these magazines? Why or why not?
8. There's a lot of talk these days about gender issues. Many women are capably doing jobs and filling leadership roles their grandmothers would not have had a chance to do. Have the ideals of feminism been achieved in your school, or is there still room for improvement when it comes to the roles that guys and girls fill?