

MORE PRECIOUS THAN RUBIES

*A 6-Day Bible Study on
God's Higher Calling for Women*



“A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman—who can find her?

*She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far more
than rubies.”*

— Proverbs 31:10 (Amplified Bible)

Presented by OnePlace

Introduction

Proverbs 31:10 opens with a striking question: “A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman—who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far more than rubies or pearls.” God sets a high standard for women—not to discourage, but to inspire. His definitions are always higher than what we would settle for on our own.

This six-day study explores that higher definition through the lives of six women in Scripture—each one embodying a distinct quality of the Proverbs 31 woman. These are not perfect portraits. These are real women who faced real struggles, and in the midst of those struggles, chose to trust God. As you work through each day, consider two questions: Which characteristic can I thank God for today? And which one do I want to invite Him to develop in me?

Day 1: A Life Surrendered

“I am the Lord’s servant. May it be done to me as you have said.”

— *Luke 1:38*

SCRIPTURE & COMMENTARY

Read Luke 1:26–38

There are moments in life when God’s plan arrives without warning—and doesn’t match what we would have chosen for ourselves. Mary’s encounter with the angel Gabriel was exactly that kind of moment. She was a young woman living a quiet, faithful life, preparing for marriage to Joseph, when everything changed with a single message: you will carry the Son of God.

Scripture doesn’t record panic. It records a question—“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”—and then it records surrender. Mary’s response is one of the most remarkable in all of Scripture: “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be done to me as you have said.” She didn’t demand clarity about the path ahead. She didn’t negotiate a more comfortable arrangement. She surrendered.

The Proverbs 31 woman is, at her core, a woman who has placed her life in God’s hands. This doesn’t mean she is passive. Mary’s surrender was active and costly—it meant accepting circumstances she didn’t choose, walking a path that would bring both extraordinary blessing and profound

hardship. But it was the surrender of a woman who understood something essential: God's plans, even the difficult ones, are trustworthy.

Whatever you are navigating today, Mary's example invites you to bring that same posture to God. Not because the path is easy, but because the One leading you is faithful.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Is there an area of your life right now where you are resisting God's plan because it isn't what you would have chosen?
2. What does it mean for you, practically, to say "May it be done to me according to Your will"?
3. What do you believe about God's character that makes surrender possible?

PRAYER

Lord, I want to hold my life with an open hand. Whatever You have for me—whatever challenge or blessing or hardship—I trust that You are good and Your plans are good. Help me to release what I am gripping too tightly and surrender to Your will, as Mary did. Amen.

Day 2: Pouring Out Your Heart

“I was pouring my soul out to the Lord.” — 1 Samuel 1:15

SCRIPTURE & COMMENTARY

Read 1 Samuel 1:9–20

Hannah’s story is one of the most tender in Scripture. She carried a grief that most around her didn’t fully understand—a longing for a child that went unanswered year after year. And instead of burying that grief or pretending it wasn’t there, Hannah did something specific: she brought it to God.

She went to the temple. She prayed with such intensity that the priest Eli mistook her for a drunk. Her lips were moving but no sound was coming out—she was praying from the deepest part of her soul. When Eli confronted her, Hannah explained: “I am a woman who is deeply troubled...I was pouring my soul out to the Lord.”

That phrase—pouring out her soul—captures something essential about Hannah’s relationship with God. She didn’t approach Him with a cleaned-up version of her pain. She brought the full weight of her anguish, her grief, and her longing, and laid it at His feet. And God, Scripture tells us, heard her. He remembered Hannah. He answered her prayer and gave her a son—Samuel, whose name means “he who hears God.”

The Proverbs 31 woman is a woman who brings her deepest burdens to God in prayer. She is not the woman who suffers in silence and alone. She is the woman who has learned — through practice, through grief, through desperation—that God is present with her, that He hears, and that every prayer she offers is precious to Him.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Is there a burden you have been carrying without bringing it to God? What has held you back?
2. What does Hannah's example teach you about the kind of prayer God honors?
3. Have you ever experienced God's response to a desperate prayer? What did that teach you about His character?

PRAYER

Lord, I bring You what is too heavy for me to carry alone. Like Hannah, I pour out my soul before You—the grief, the longing, the unanswered questions. I trust that You hear. I trust that You hold my tears as precious. I believe You are present with me now. Amen.

Day 3: A Gentle and Quiet Spirit

“the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.” — 1 Peter 3:4

SCRIPTURE & COMMENTARY

Read 1 Peter 3:1–6

Sarah is presented in 1 Peter 3 as an example of something that can be difficult to grasp in our culture: the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. And it is worth pausing here to understand what Peter is—and is not—saying.

He is not describing an introvert. He is not describing a woman without opinions, ambitions, or gifts. A quick reading of Proverbs 31 reveals a woman of extraordinary energy and initiative. The “gentle and quiet spirit” Peter describes is a spirit posture, not a personality type. It refers to the condition of the heart—one that is not driven by anxiety, striving, or self-protection, but by trust in a God who governs all things.

Sarah’s life was not easy. Abraham made serious mistakes—mistakes that placed Sarah in difficult and even dangerous situations. And yet Peter holds up Sarah as a woman who maintained this spirit of trust even in those seasons. She placed her hope in God rather than giving in to fear.

This is the key phrase from the passage: “do not give way to fear.” The gentle and quiet spirit is not the absence of struggle—it is the refusal to be ruled by fear when circumstances are

outside your control. It is the posture of a woman who trusts that God is working, even when she cannot see how.

The Proverbs 31 woman trusts God with difficult circumstances. She submits to His plan—not because life is easy, but because she knows the One holding her story.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What circumstances in your life right now feel most difficult to trust God with?
2. Where do you most often “give in to fear”? What is fear promising you that God has already provided?
3. What would it look like this week to respond to a difficult situation with a gentle and quiet spirit?

PRAYER

Lord, I confess that fear often rules my heart more than trust. I want the kind of spirit that Sarah modeled—not one that is unaware of hardship, but one that is anchored in You. Replace my fear with faith. Help me to trust Your hand even when I cannot trace it. Amen.

Day 4: Habits of Seeking God

“She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.” — Luke 2:37

SCRIPTURE & COMMENTARY

Read Luke 2:36–38

Anna appears in only three verses in all of Scripture. She is introduced briefly, almost as a footnote to the story of Jesus’ dedication at the temple. But what Luke records about her is extraordinary in its simplicity: she worshiped, she fasted, and she prayed. Every day. For decades.

At 84 years old, a widow for most of her adult life, Anna had cultivated a rhythm of seeking God that defined her entire existence. She didn’t worship when she felt like it. She didn’t pray when circumstances were favorable. She had built into her life a daily pattern of coming before God—and because of that consistency, she was at the temple on the very day that the infant Jesus was brought in for dedication. She held the Messiah in her arms.

Her readiness was not accidental. It was the fruit of decades of daily faithfulness.

The Proverbs 31 woman is a woman who cultivates habits of seeking the Lord. The habits she builds—of prayer, of Scripture, of worship, of quiet time with God—are not just ends in themselves. They are what prepare her for everything

God has ahead: the conversations He has planned, the opportunities with her children, the moments that seem ordinary but become extraordinary in His hands. Anna didn't know that the morning she was praying would be the morning she would hold the Son of God. She simply showed up, as she always did.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What spiritual habits are currently shaping your relationship with God? Which feel strong? Which are inconsistent?
2. What makes it hard to maintain daily rhythms of prayer and seeking God?
3. Is there one small habit you could begin this week that would put you in regular contact with God?

PRAYER

Lord, I want to be a woman like Anna—faithful in the ordinary, consistent in the unseen. Help me build habits of seeking You that prepare me for everything You have ahead. I don't want to miss what You have for me because I wasn't paying attention. Draw me close, day by day. Amen.

Day 5: Passing On a Legacy

“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice.”

— 2 Timothy 1:5

SCRIPTURE & COMMENTARY

Read 2 Timothy 1:5

Lois is mentioned exactly once in the entire Bible. Her name appears in a single verse in Paul’s second letter to Timothy. And yet what Paul writes about her is among the most significant things recorded in the New Testament: the faith that shaped Timothy—who would become the bishop of all the churches in Asia Minor and the recipient of two letters from the Apostle Paul—began in his grandmother.

Lois’s faith was so genuine, so alive, so authentic, that it passed to her daughter Eunice. Eunice’s faith was so real that it shaped her son Timothy. And Timothy’s faith became one of the most influential forces in the early church. Paul’s testimony is clear: there would be no Timothy without a Eunice, and no Eunice without a Lois. One woman’s faithfulness created a generational chain that shaped the history of Christianity.

Most of us will not have our names recorded in Scripture. We will not preach to crowds or write epistles. But every believing woman has Lois’s opportunity: to live a faith so genuine, so

consistent, so visible, that those watching—children, grandchildren, younger women in the community—are changed by what they see. Not by what we teach alone. By how we live.

The Proverbs 31 woman is a woman who passes on a legacy of faith. And the legacy begins in the ordinary moments of daily life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Whose faith influenced yours? What was it about that person that made their faith compelling?
2. Who is watching your life right now—and what are they seeing?
3. What does it mean to live a faith that is not just believed privately, but passed on visibly?

PRAYER

Lord, make my faith genuine enough to pass on. I want what I believe to be visible in how I live—in how I love, how I speak, how I respond under pressure. Use my life, however ordinary it may feel, as a legacy of faith for those who come after me. Amen.

Day 6: A Home Open for Ministry

“They invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more accurately.” — Acts 18:26

SCRIPTURE & COMMENTARY

Read Acts 18:24–26

Priscilla and Aquila were ordinary people who lived in an extraordinary way. They were tentmakers by trade—workers, craftspeople, people without a title or a platform. And yet their home became one of the most significant ministry hubs in the early church.

They opened their home to the Apostle Paul and traveled with him. They received the brilliant young preacher Apollos into their home, recognized the gaps in his understanding, and quietly instructed him in the full truth of the gospel. The Apollos who went on to powerfully advance the gospel across Greece—who “vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate and proved from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ”—was shaped in part by the hospitality and faithfulness of Priscilla.

What is remarkable is what Luke doesn’t record: Priscilla’s spiritual gifts, her Bible knowledge, her speaking ability, her personality. We don’t know any of those things. What we know is that she was gracious, she was hospitable, she cared

about people, and she created a space where people could come in, be loved, and grow.

The Proverbs 31 woman sees her home—and her network of relationships—as a means by which God can use her to impact the world. Ministry doesn't require a stage. It often happens around a table, in a living room, over a shared meal. Your home and your genuine care for the people around you are already a ministry. The question is whether you are opening that space to what God wants to do through it.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does hospitality look like in your life right now?
How do you use your home and relationships for others?
2. Is there someone in your life who is gifted but could benefit from your encouragement or guidance?
3. How does it change your perspective on your daily relationships to see them as potential ministry?

PRAYER

Lord, make my home a place where people encounter Your love. Help me see my daily relationships and ordinary spaces as opportunities for You to work. Give me eyes to notice who around me needs to be welcomed in, encouraged, and shown the way more clearly. Use my life as Priscilla's was used—in ways I may never fully see this side of heaven. Amen.

Six Characteristics of the Proverbs 31 Woman

As you complete this study, the invitation is not to measure yourself against these six women and find where you fall short. It is to bring these characteristics before God and say: “Which of these are You developing in me? And which ones can I invite You to work on?”

- Mary — She surrenders her life to the will of God
- Hannah — She brings her deepest burdens to God in prayer
- Sarah — She trusts God with difficult circumstances and submits to His plan
- Anna — She cultivates habits of seeking the Lord
- Lois — She passes on a legacy of faith to the next generation
- Priscilla — She opens her home and relationships for ministry

God’s standard for women is high. But it is a calling, not a condemnation. He believes in what He has planted in you. Pursue it, day by day, with His grace and His strength.

“Her value is far more than rubies.” — Proverbs 31:10

Continue the Journey

This study is drawn from the biblical teaching of *Truth that Changes Lives*, the ministry of Pastor J.P. Jones available on OnePlace.com To go deeper into the study of God's Word, explore the full library of Pastor Jones' teaching at OnePlace.com—along with trusted voices from ministries across the Christian faith.

Free resources. Trusted voices. Biblical truth for daily life.

