

Week 52– Questions to Consider

Psalm 147-150 ~ Proverbs 31:10-31

Small Group Warm Up Question:

Looking forward to the next year, what plans are you making to better love God and others?

1. When the end of a year comes, and the beginning of a new year approaches, why do so many people make “New Year’s resolutions”? What is the purpose? How does one go about making a resolution? What are some keys to a successful resolution? In Proverbs 31:2, the question “What are you doing?” is repeated three times. How is the key question to establishing a good resolution?
2. What are the two warnings of the oracle to King Lemuel from his mother? (Proverbs 31:3-5) What warnings would you prioritize for your children? Why?
3. King Lemuel’s positive encouragements come in verses 8 & 9. Why do you think these are priorities for him as a king? What are some of your priorities in your role where God has placed you?
4. What are some of the characteristics that stand out to you about the “Proverbs 31 woman”? If you were to highlight some of your favorite characteristics about the women in your life (wife, daughters, mother, grandmother, etc.), what would you highlight? Why?
5. Proverbs 31:10-31 is essentially a list of genuine compliments about a woman “who fears the Lord.” Do you struggle with giving compliments? Why or why not? Why do you think genuine compliments (not flattery) are so important? How do genuine compliments help you? What are some biblical characteristics you prioritize in your own life? Why?
6. Why is someone’s trust such a compliment to their character? (Proverbs 31:11) How is trust gained? How is trust lost?
7. What are some ways in which you see the “Proverbs 31 woman” fulfilling the command to love others? In what ways does Proverbs 31 reveal the priorities of those relationships? Who are the priorities that God has called you to love? How can you love them better over the next year?
8. Proverbs 31:30 mentions “charm” and “beauty” as two worldly priorities that ultimately fail. What does the world today highlight as its priorities for women? For men? How do those priorities ultimately fail? Why is one “who fears the Lord” the ultimate foundational characteristic to these other praiseworthy descriptions? (Proverbs 31:30)

More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

The Gift of Peace: Receive & Believe

What are you doing now? How was 2023?

Proverbs 31:1–2 “The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him: What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?”

What will you do in the future? What makes you anxious about the future? How do you want 2024 to go?

1) F _____/Trust/Respect the Lord

- Proverbs 31:30 “Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”
- Job 1:21 “And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’”

Corrie Ten Boom, a well-known Holocaust survivor, said with hands opened towards the sky, “Learn to hold everything like this, with open hands. That way, when the Lord takes something, it does not hurt as much.”

2) Be Diligent with Your Days - Every Day is a G ____

- Proverbs 31:25 “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.”
- Matthew 6:27, 33-34 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?... But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (ESV)

May Jesus Be Your Peace in 2024 & Forever

Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV)

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**

[7] Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Human **G_____** Never Provide Lasting Peace: Understand Human History & His-Story

- Luke 1:31–33 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Only the Kingdom of God Provides Eternal Peace: **F_____** on It

- Matthew 6:25, 33-34 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34] “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Jesus is the Gift of Peace: **R_____** Him

- John 1:12–13 “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Jesus is the Prince of Peace: **Courageously** **T_____** Him

- John 14:26–27 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Thank Jesus for His Peace!

His Mercy - The Passing Over of Judgement

His Forgiveness - The Removal of Conflict

His Harmony - The Establishing a Relationship

His Blessings of Grace - The Giving of Benefits

This Next Week’s Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 1: Genesis 1-15 (actually starts 1/7)

- **Read the Old Testament w/Us:** www.southfork.church/2024
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo

The Gift of Peace: Receive & Believe

***What are you doing now?
How was 2023?***

Proverbs 31:1–2 “The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him: What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?”

***What will you do in the future?
What makes you anxious about the future?
How do you want 2024 to go?***

1) Fear/Trust/Respect the Lord

- Proverbs 31:30 “Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”
- Job 1:21 “And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’”

Corrie Ten Boom, a well-known Holocaust survivor, said with hands opened towards the sky, “Learn to hold everything like this, with open hands. That way, when the Lord takes something, it does not hurt as much.”

2) Be Diligent with Your Days - Every Day is a Gift

- Proverbs 31:25 “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.”
- Matthew 6:27, 33-34 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?... But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (ESV)

May Jesus Be Your Peace in 2024 & Forever

Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV)

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**

*[7] Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be
no end,*

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Human Governments Never Provide Lasting Peace: Understand Human History & His-Story

- Luke 1:31–33 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Only the Kingdom of God Provides Eternal Peace: Focus on It

- Matthew 6:25, 33-34 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34] “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Jesus is the Gift of Peace: Receive Him

- John 1:12–13 “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Jesus is the Prince of Peace: Courageously Trust Him

- John 14:26–27 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. [27] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Thank Jesus for His Peace!

His Mercy - The Passing Over of Judgement

His Forgiveness - The Removal of Conflict

His Harmony - The Establishing a Relationship

His Blessings of Grace - The Giving of Benefits