

THE LEMUEL TALK

The LEMUEL TALK is the conversation every mother should have with her son while he is still young, during which she teaches him how to identify a virtuous woman from Prov. 31. The following are useful questions derived from verses 10-31 of that passage.

1. CAN I REALLY TRUST THIS GIRL?

Pr 31:11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

If she lies to her parents, misleads, and deceives, she will do the same to you.

2. DOES SHE DO GOOD THINGS FOR OTHERS?

Pr 31:12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Or, is she all about herself, with everything she does designed to serve her own selfish interests?

3. DOES SHE WORK WITH HER HANDS?

Pr 31:13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

Or, does she sit while others clear the table & load the dishwasher? Does she text, watch tv, & giggle while the work is going on? Does she wash/iron her own clothes?

4. CAN SHE SHOP FOR FOOD AND COOK IT?

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. (ancient shopping)

15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

Or, does she flippantly say, "Cook? Why should I cook? It's cheaper to eat out anyway." Which proves she can't do math either. "I'll have to find a man who doesn't like home cookin'." Good luck with that.

5. IS SHE SMART FINANCIALLY?

16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. (This woman is making investments)

Or, does she spend everything she gets?

6. IS SHE PRODUCTIVE?

18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

Or, is she a constant drain on her family's resources? Sadly many children have never been taught that they are supposed to contribute. This is the same crowd we see laying up on their parents in their thirties.

7. DOES SHE HAVE ANY COMPASSION?

Pr 31:20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

Or, is she cold toward poor, needy people?

8. DOES SHE THINK AHEAD, AND PROVIDE FOR HER FAMILY'S NEEDS AND HER OWN?

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

Or, is she just concerned with right now?

9. DOES SHE KNOW HOW TO MAKE MONEY?

24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Or, just how to spend it? (Believing that women do not need to know how to produce income is an unbiblical fallacy.)

10. IS SHE KIND/CAREFUL IN WHAT SHE SAYS?

26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Or, is she harsh and critical toward others?

11. DOES SHE MAKE GOOD USE OF TIME?

Pr 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Or, is she idle a lot, hanging out, talking, texting, riding around, watching tv/movies

12. DOES SHE HAVE THE PRAISE/RESPECT OF THOSE WHO KNOW HER BEST? FAMILY?

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Or, do people roll their eyes when her name is mentioned?

13. DOES SHE FEAR THE LORD?

30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Or, is she just good lookin'? Is there a virtuous woman under all that?

Then Mom, tell him he will NEVER FIND ALL this in one woman. This is likely a composite woman, from an instructive Hebrew acrostic poem! If he waits for all these puzzle pieces, he will DIE SINGLE! But, he should see enough of them to identify her as a virtuous woman in the making.

From a sermon by Pastor Tom Miles, Mother's Day, May 12, 2013, Crooked Creek Baptist Church, Athens, GA. Sermon may be heard at www.crookedcreekbaptistchurch.org