



Stephen and I have three kids at three different ages and in very different seasons of life. It is completely overwhelming to me at times that The Lord chose me to be their mother. I have lots of days that are just what the teenagers would say is an “epic fail.” There are many moments where I wish I could have a second chance to just get it right.

During this season of frustration, The Lord laid on my heart to read Proverbs 31. As I read it, I laughed just a little because the words listed below are not typically ones heard in the day to day aspect of being a mom.

- Far above rubies (verse 10)
- Girds herself with strength (verse 17)
- Her household is clothed with scarlet (verse 21)
- Strength and honor are her clothing (verse 25)
- She opens her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness (vs 26)

Let's just be honest for a moment. How many times have you and I opened our mouth without kindness on our tongue? The moments in our house that are the most frantic are in the morning. Backpacks. Lunchboxes. Last minute homework review. Everything is done in a hurry to attempt to rush out of the door at 7:10 am so that everyone can be where they need to be on time. Ruthie calls it the “hurry, scurry, murray” moment. I'm not sure who Murray is, but the hurry and scurry sure are right.

I want you to read Proverbs 31 and as you do make a list below of the women who have impacted your life.

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As you look at the list of the above women, one thing I am sure of is that in order to impact your life they had to ABIDE in The Lord. That is the word that God kept laying on my heart for this week's guide- ABIDE. I want you to dig a little deeper today as we study

this passage of scripture and how it relates to being the mother, daughter, niece, cousin, sister, grandmother, aunt- **the woman that God has called you to be.**

I took each letter of the word **ABIDE** and have made an acrostic for this week. Pray before you start that God would show you which letter He would have you to focus on this week.

### **A- Abundant Life**

God wants you to live a life that is abundant and full. In order to do that, you may have to rid yourself of distractions that are keeping you from being all that God has called you to be. Spend a few minutes asking The Lord if there is an area where you need to scale back. Is there an application on your phone that you need to delete? Is there an unhealthy relationship that has formed that you need to end? The definition of abundant is "existing in large quantities, plentiful."

Abundance also means rich, lavish, generous, overflowing, and ample. Do these words describe your spiritual life or would you describe it as depleted, empty, or defeated. In order to abide in Him and experience his abundance, you have to be willing to focus on the best that He has to offer. There are a lot of good things that will demand your attention. The question is where does God want you to focus?

### **B- Binds Her Tongue (verses 8, 26)**

I did some research this week and found that the average woman speaks 20,000 words a day, while the average man speaks 7,000. I would say that I am probably well above average in this category. ☺ I want you to go back and read verses 8 and 26 again.

**She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue (Proverbs 31:26)**

Once your words come out of your mouth or they are posted on social media, there is no retrieving them. I can still remember my 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School teacher explaining the above with a tube of toothpaste. She proceeded to squirt a whole tube of toothpaste out onto a plate and then asked us to place it back in the tube. We couldn't complete that task. It is the same way with our spoken words. Think about what words are "oozing" from your mouth. What you are sharing with your children. What are you posting on social media? Does it glorify The Lord? Ask The Lord to show you this week how to be more faithful in your instruction and for Him to give you wisdom and discernment when it comes to being the woman, mother, or grandmother that He wants you to be.

### **I- In His Strength (Verse 17)**

Verse 17 says, "...her arms are strong for her tasks."

In order to be the woman who God is calling you to be it must be done in His strength and not your own. I heard something once that I have never forgotten. It was stated that in regard to parenting- **the goal should be for your children to move from dependence on you to dependence on God.**

How would you rate yourself on teaching your children, grandchildren, or nieces/nephews, to rely on The Lord? Satan loves when you gird yourself in YOUR own strength. He knows that when he can get you to accomplish something on your own, that most times it will fail miserably.

**In His Strength, not in \_\_\_\_\_ (write your name) strength!** Go back and review Isaiah 41:10 from a few weeks ago. It is one of my favorites.

#### **D- Dressed in Riches (verses 21, 22, 25)**

In verses 21, 22, and 25 you will find several words relating to how you should dress. **Scarlet. Fine Linen. Purple. Strength. Dignity.** Do these words describe your spiritual wardrobe? I love to shop. I always tend to gravitate toward the same style and color of dress when I go shopping. Stephen will often say, "That looks like one you already have." Honestly, I tend to buy it anyway if I like it. ☺ It made me think this week that I do have a lot of outfits in the same color. God nudged my heart with the fact that we often get comfortable and gravitate toward a similar pattern in our relationship with Him. Think about your wardrobe spiritually speaking? **Does your physical wardrobe look pristine while spiritually you are dressed in tattered rags?** Are you falling apart on the inside **when in Christ** you have access to fine linen and royal purple garments? God wants to take you this week from rags to the riches that He offers. Are you willing? It demands a sacrifice.

#### **E- Extends Equipping Grace (verse 20)**

Verse 20 talks about extending a hand to those in need. I want you to think about how Jesus invested in his disciples for a moment. He lived with them, taught them, instructed them, fished with them, and traveled with them. Although Jesus ministered to and loved on the masses of people that followed Him, He primarily devoted himself to the work of a few in order that the masses may be reached more effectively. He invested in them with an intent focus to train and equip them for when He was no longer there. He corrected them when needed and then sent them on their own journey. As a mom, you have to equip your children by giving them the tools they need and then at some point extend that grace by sending them out. I am not in that season yet, however, pray that God grants me the time to get there. You and I are not promised another moment, day, or month. How are you doing when it comes to extending equipping grace? **Spiritual investments will never return void.**

Go back to page one of this guide where you wrote down the women who taught you to abide in The Lord. Write them a note this week expressing how thankful you are of them. I guarantee you that it was an intentional act of investment and focus on **ABIDING in HIM this week!**