

The Way of Wisdom

Questions for Discussion: Session #5

The following are questions that can be used after you have watched the Session #5 Video.

- #1 We focused on the virtue of *kindness* in this session. Do you generally find it easier to act with *kindness* inside your home or outside your home? Why do you think that might be?
- #2 **Proverbs 15:1** says, "*A soft answer turns away wrath.*" Share a situation where that statement was proven true in your life.
- #3 The second half of the above verse says, "...*but a harsh word stirs up anger.*" The choices between a *soft answer* and a *harsh word* are similar to the choices we face every day between wisdom and folly. Discuss some effective strategies that would help a woman steer clear of harsh words.
- #4 Do you agree or disagree with the Harvard study that claimed that couples who were married for a long time achieved that by excercising *perseverance*?
- #5 Read **Proverbs 31:11**. Discuss some ways a wife can establish this trust in her marriage relationship.
- #6 The example of Martin and Katie revealed the challenges we face as we live together as husband and wife. We have different fears and weaknesses and these require understanding, patience and perseverance. Sue highlighted the role of humor in the Luther's marriage, which is a great strategy. What other traits can a husband and wife develop to help them persevere in healthy ways?

*The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain. (Prov. 31:11)*



Proverbs Reading Assignment for this Week:

<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 28
<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 26	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 29
<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 30

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Study & Prep for Session #6

#1 Kindness doesn't necessarily mean being nice or superficial. Its goal is not approval or passively accepting a bad situation. True kindness is honest, it isn't afraid of difficult conversations and it is willing to set necessary boundaries. Consider this verse from Micah:

Micah 6:8 (ESV) *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you – but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."*

- Underline the three virtues required by God in that verse.
- What are some ways in which you observe God to be both kind and just in His dealings with us?
- What are some ways in which we can take on those same characteristics in dealing with other people?

#2 There are four Proverbs that we often dislike reading. Read these verses and list the common trait of which they all speak:

Proverbs 21:9
Proverbs 25:24

Proverbs 21:19
Proverbs 27:15

This represents the opposite of the virtue of kindness that we found in **Proverbs 31:26**. Consider the following statements and check those that you feel the Lord would have you improve upon in your marriage.

- I don't have to win every argument
- I don't have to correct him every time he mis-speaks
- I can pause before I share my opinion so my tone is kinder
- I can learn to overlook small annoyances
- I can learn to appreciate his personality and strengths that are unlike mine
- I can learn to empathize with his weakness, knowing that I have my own to deal with

#3 In **Proverbs 31:11**, the ESV translated the Hebrew by using the word *trust*, and the NIV used the phrase *full confidence*. Both are excellent. Whether or not you are currently married, answer these questions with the ideal of the Proverbs 31 woman in mind.

- In what ways can a wife nurture trust that would help their partnership flourish?
- What practical things might a wife do that would enable her husband to have full confidence in her and have no lack of gain?

If you are married, what is one thing you want to improve upon in the above areas?