

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

Her faith, our journey

It Pleased the Lord — Rev. Claire Banks 31.8.2026

Scripture

Proverbs 31:10–31; 1 Kings 3:5–14; James 1:5; Philippians 4:8–9

Open your mind and heart as you read the passages of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

1 Kings 3:5–14

When God invited Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted, Solomon did not ask for wealth, long life or victory over his enemies. Instead, he asked God for wisdom — the ability to discern between right and wrong and to lead God's people well. His request **pleased the Lord**.

Wisdom is more than knowledge or intelligence. Biblical wisdom teaches us how to live well before God. It shapes how we honour God, how we treat others and how we navigate a world that does not always reflect God's purposes.

God does not keep this wisdom from us. James reminds us that when we lack wisdom, we can simply ask God, who gives generously. The beginning of this wisdom is the **fear of the Lord** — not being terrified of God, but living with reverence, awe and respect for Him.

Proverbs 31:10–31

Proverbs 31 introduces us to a woman of wisdom and noble character. She is faithful, trustworthy, diligent and generous. Her beauty is not primarily outward; it is seen in the strength, dignity and godly character with which she lives.



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At the centre of her life is a desire to build up rather than tear down. Her character brings honour to those around her.

But this passage invites us to look beyond an ideal for women. Scripture also describes the Church as the **bride of Christ**. Seen through this lens, the Proverbs 31 woman gives us a picture of the kind of Church we are called to be — faithful, wise, courageous and committed to bringing honour and glory to Christ.

As the Church, we are called to be Christ's helpers in the world. We are invited to live differently, allowing God's wisdom to shape our character and our actions. We can face the future with confidence because we know who holds the future.

Our lives should ultimately point beyond ourselves to Jesus.

The question for us, then, is simple but challenging: **When God looks at the way we live, does it bring a smile to His face?**

Icebreaker

Do you want to make God smile?

What do you think you can do to make that happen?

Application

- **Do you ever ask God for wisdom? Why or why not?** What situation in your life would be helped by an extra dose of wisdom from God?
- **How do you think your character has changed since you began to honour and respect God?** Do such changes make you like yourself more? How do you feel about yourself now?
- **What would characterise a person who is a suitable helper to God?** Do you "fit the bill"? What would have to change in your life to be a suitable helper, do you think?



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Prayer

Spend some time praying for one another.

Ask God to give you His wisdom and discernment for the situations you are facing. Pray that He will continue to shape your character so that your words, choices and actions reflect Christ.

Ask God to show you anything in your life that needs to change and to help you become a willing and faithful helper in His work.

Pray that, individually and together as the Church, our lives would honour God, bring glory to Christ and **bring a smile to His face.**

Service

This week, ask God to show you **one practical way in which you can be His helper.** Look for an opportunity to build someone up rather than tear them down, to serve rather than be served, or to bring God's wisdom, love and peace into a difficult situation.

Before you act, ask:

"Will this please the Lord?"

Then have the courage to follow where God leads.

Bibliography

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2031%3A%2010-31&version=NIV>



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