

WISE AS – WEEK 5  
Mother's Day – Jim Burgen  
May 9, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Proverbs 3:5-8; Proverbs 31; Proverbs 18:10; Genesis 1:1-2; Genesis 17:1; Genesis 22:14

// Message Summary

This week Jim is wrapping up the series Wise As. We have learned from the previous messages that “wisdom is knowledge rightly applied.” Last week, Ben took the time to speak to all of us, and particularly men, about 3 key points. 1. Pausing at the Crossroads 2. Stop flirting with disaster 3. Choosing Home. The intent was for us to stop and think about our choices before destroying our life. This week, Jim, although focused on women, calls all of us, male and female, to examine the voices we listen to and the things/people we use to measure ourselves. The primary scripture used, Proverbs 31, was not written as a comprehensive list of a perfect wife. As a matter of fact, Proverbs 31 was not even written to women. However, wives, when reading this default to self-condemnation, believing they do not meet the standards of Proverbs 31. One of our biggest problems in life is listening to the wrong voices concerning our identity and relying on the wrong things to communicate our worth. In short, Jim encourages us to find our identity and worth in God and not in people or things. Whose voice has definitive authority in your life regarding your identity or your value/worth? This message encourages us to allow God to define us and communicate worth/value. Remember that God is Ruach, bringing energy and life, El Shaddai supplying all that you need, and Jireh, supplying and providing more than enough for everything that He tells you to do.

// Biblical Context

Proverbs 31 is divided into two parts. First, a call to avoid sinful behavior that could lead to destruction as a call to defend those who can't defend themselves (v. 1 – 9), and second, the famous “virtuous woman” passages (v. 10 – 31). Verses 10 – 31 are written in an acrostic poem format, with each verse of this section starting with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in consecutive order starting with the first letter. Proverbs 31: 10 – 31 was written as a guide to Solomon regarding a woman of valor. If one could remember the alphabet, one could remember the advice given in this poetic acrostic. Yet the main

point of this poem can be found in the last two verses (31:30 – 31) which says that a woman who fears (reverence and respect) the Lord is worthy of praise. The reader is encouraged to celebrate a woman's ability to honor the Lord above all.

### // Community Questions

1. What small step or change did you make last week to Choose Home? What positive outcomes have you noticed so far?
2. God told Solomon to ask for anything that he wanted... if God asked you to ask for anything that you wanted, what would it be? (i.e., power, money, success, position, health, etc.)
3. God tells us that Wisdom is something that will be given to us if we just ask for it. Share a time when you asked God for wisdom in something, and He gave it to you.

### // Discussion Questions

1. Jim said that our biggest problem is that we “listen to the wrong voices and compare ourselves to the wrong things to find our value, our worth, and our identity.” Where is this true in your life right now? Where are you comparing yourself to others to find your worth and value? And what wrong voices are you allowing to speak into your identity?
2. Jim went through Proverbs 31 which describes a “super woman.” What emotions or thoughts did that bring up for you? Did you immediately start comparing your mom to her or your role as a parent to the “super woman” in the verses?
3. Read Proverbs 31:30. What impact would it have in your life if you focused on “fearing the Lord” (knowing who God is and who you are to God) rather than focusing on the voices you have historically been listening to about your worth and value?
4. This weekend, we learned 3 names of God.
  - Ruach - “he brings energy and life to the formless and void.”
  - El Shaddai - “like a mother’s breast...He supplies all that you need.”
  - Jireh - “He supplies and provides more than enough for everything that He tells you to do.”

When you read these names and what they mean, which one do you feel most connected to and which one do you feel far from and want to be more connected to?

### // Challenge

This week, spend some intentional time in prayer and ask Jesus to reveal areas where you are listening to the wrong voices and comparing yourself to the wrong things to find your value. Then ask Him for wisdom and how you can course correct to place your focus on “fearing the Lord” and keeping Him in His proper place in your life!

Once you have identified those voices or areas of your life, commit to talking to a trusted friend about an actionable step you can take towards “fearing the Lord.”