

**Elephants in the Room III**  
**“At the End of Her Rope” 5/9/10**  
**Sermon Series Small Group Discussion Questions**

**Background:**

Proverbs 31 is the advice given to an ancient king, Lemuel, by his mother, concerning the qualities of a suitable wife. Genesis 3 provides an account of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

**Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and Genesis 3:8-13.**

1. What stood out to you, challenged you, or encouraged you from the sermon, “At the End of Her Rope?”
2. The wealth of King Solomon, who is often credited with writing the Proverbs, was recognized in both his number of wives and his lavishly decorated palace. How does this passage start to distinguish between wealth and value? How do these statements speak to us today (both men and women)?
3. To what extent does this passage sound like a set of lofty expectations, and to what extent does it sound like praise for jobs well done? What are the expectations that we place on mothers and other family members, and what do they do that is already praiseworthy?
4. In this Proverbs passage, we see that the husband is respected in town, and the wife brings even more honor to the husband through her many accomplishments. How often do we perceive this dynamic in relationships today—that one spouse understands his or her role as bringing honor to the other?
5. What are some qualities of a good spouse or parent that are not covered by this passage?
6. How does our knowledge of the love and grace of God, as shown in Jesus, affect how we view this passage and how we value the qualities and characteristics of our loved ones?
7. In what ways does Genesis 3 either lighten or add to the burden of expectations we might feel from passages like Proverbs 31? Does our original sinfulness make it easier or more difficult to accept one another’s shortcomings?
8. What else in the passage or the sermon stood out to you? How might you reconsider worship—either in church or in your life—as a result?

Close your time in prayer for one another.