

# TAKEAWAY

## Behold 2019

### Laughing at the days to come

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018

#### INTRODUCTION

As we stand at the beginning of a new year, a year that promises great changes in our personal lives, our church life and our country's politics, it is easy to fear the future. Proverbs 31 talks of a woman who stands with strength and dignity and laughs at the days to come. How can we be a little more like her?

#### READ

Proverbs 31:25

#### DISCUSS

1. This verse comes in a daunting list of the qualities of a truly awesome woman. It's easy to feel intimidated by her apparent super powers. Do you struggle with comparing yourself with others? Who makes you feel intimidated? What do you think God might say?

2. Verse 25 says the woman is clothed in dignity but it doesn't come from herself - her ability to laugh at the future comes from her grounding in God; knowing she is loved and that her accomplishments are reliant on God, not her. Knowing who we are in God can help us through tough times and

uncertain futures. What Bible verses do you lean into when times are tough?

#### READ

Romans 8:31-39

#### DISCUSS

3. Knowing the Bible tells us that God loves us is one thing, having that **live** in us is another. When have you felt distant from love or separated from it? Did that change? What helped you?

4. Why not share with your group the things you hope for and are afraid of in 2019? Pray together to know the peace of God and his presence with you.

5. Bekah said: "*Facing the future with a smile doesn't mean it's going*

*to be a bed of roses.*" What do you think of that statement? How do you feel about bad things happening to people God loves?

6. The only thing that separates us from God is sin. And Jesus dealt with that on the cross. As you start a new year, are there things you'd like your group to hold you accountable for as you seek to follow Jesus more closely?

