



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Value of Patience

She considers a field and buys it, and with the profit of it she plants herself a vineyard

-- Proverbs 31:16

Patience is the ability to wait for the fulfillment of a goal, dream or vision. It involves careful and thoughtful planning. We often must take baby steps to lead us to the realization of a big dream.

Savlanoot is the Hebrew word for patience. The root of the word *savlanoot* is the same as the meaning of the word *suffer*. So to have patience is literally to work through a process until a goal or dream or vision is fulfilled. However, in our fast-paced, high-tech age, many people do not have time to be patient nor do they want to be patient. We live in a society that values goods and services at the click of a button. We want instant gratification. People certainly don't want to do what they consider menial or trivial on the way to something more important. We often start projects, but change our minds if things get too hard or don't work out as hoped.

Imagine for a moment, the length of time it took the woman portrayed in Proverbs 31 to take care of the field she bought until it began to yield enough profit for her to buy a vineyard. Then consider the amount of time it would take for the vineyard to begin to produce. This woman teaches us that patience is at the root of every worthwhile investment.

Sharing & Discussion

- Think of a time where your patience paid off. Describe the circumstances and how you were able to honor and stick with the process in order to realize "the fruits of your vineyard."

- Think of a time when you were impatient to see a process through. What caused you to want to either quit or get done quickly to see the results? How could focusing on patience have helped the situation?
- As a leader in your sisterhood, how can the value of patience help with developing leadership and ensuring the success of your vineyard?

Activity: The Value of Patience: Unfinished Business

When you announce the program, ask participants to bring in projects that they started but never finished (it could be anything from needlework, knitting or crocheting to updating a photo album or scrapbook, homemade cookbook, etc.).

After the discussion on *savlanoot*, patience, invite people to show their projects and talk about how or why it became impossible to complete.

This could be a very effective intergenerational program, demonstrating both the benefits and the pitfalls of completing projects.