

## A Mother's Teaching

Listen, my son, to your father's  
instruction  
and do not forsake your mother's  
teaching.

They will be a garland to grace your  
head  
and a chain to adorn your neck.

The sayings of King Lemuel—an oracle  
his mother taught him:

"O my son, O son of my womb,  
O son of my vows,  
do not spend your strength on  
women,  
your vigor on those who ruin kings.

"It is not for kings, O Lemuel—  
not for kings to drink wine,  
not for rulers to crave beer,  
lest they drink and forget what the law  
decrees,  
and deprive all the oppressed of  
their rights.

Give beer to those who are perishing,  
wine to those who are in anguish;  
let them drink and forget their poverty  
and remember their misery no  
more.

"Speak up for those who cannot  
speak for  
themselves,  
for the rights of all who are  
destitute.  
Speak up and judge fairly;  
defend the rights of the poor and  
needy."

Proverbs 1:8-9; 31:1-9