

WOW. Lesson 19. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WISE: DELIGHTS IN GOD'S COMMANDS

Intro: Theo comes in and says thank you for the cookie he got to choose weeks ago. He talks about how good it was but how he didn't get to eat it right away.

C: Why not?

T: Well, my mom said I couldn't have it until I ate my dinner. And I did NOT like part of that dinner!

C: You didn't? What was it that you didn't like?

T: Have you ever eaten lima beans, Mrs. Scanio?

C: Yes. I have.

T: Did you LIKE them?

C: Actually, I do like them; but they aren't my favorite thing to eat.

T: Well, they aren't my favorite thing to eat either. But I had to eat some to be able to eat that yummy cookie! I guess it was worth it, but I really just wanted the cookie!

C: So, you WANTED to eat the cookie and you did not really want to eat the lima beans?

T: That's right.

C: Theo, that leads us into this week's lesson!

T: (mouth hanging open) Whaaaat? What is this lesson about? Cookies?

C: You'll see!

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C: Last week we began a new group of lessons in our Way of the Wise Series. We are learning more about what a wise person is really like. We are learning the Characteristics of the Wise.

T: Last week I learned that I needed to read the directions to my game. I didn't want to because it seemed too hard. I wasn't wise about that.

C: That's right. At first you did not seek out the knowledge about how to play the game.

T: Once I did read the directions, I learned how to play the game and found out that game is really fun!

C: One of the characteristics of the wise is that the wise SEEKS KNOWLEDGE.

T: I remember! We read from the book of John in the Bible and learned about Nicodemus. Nicodemus was seeking knowledge from Jesus.

C: Jesus answered Nicodemus's questions. He told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again—he needed to be born of the spirit.

T: Nicodemus trusted Jesus and became a follower of Jesus.

C: He did. Wise people SEEK KNOWLEDGE just like Nicodemus did! This week we are going to learn about another characteristic of the wise.

T: And my cookie has something to do with it?

C: In a way, yes. Your delight in the cookie reminded me of the second characteristic of a wise person. Someone who is wise DELIGHTS in God's Commands.

T: Hmmmm....I did love eating that cookie. I guess I DELIGHTED in that cookie! I wanted to eat the cookie!

C: You ate your cookie because you love cookies and delighted in the cookie. Why did you eat the lima beans?

T: Well, I NEEDED to eat my lima beans. I didn't really want to. But I had to!

C: So, you DELIGHTED in eating the cookie; but eating the lima beans were sort of a duty—you had to.

T: (Sigh). That's right. Lima beans are okay, I guess. But I WANTED to eat the cookie!

C: Theo, do you have your Bible? Let's look up Psalm 119:12-16. When you find it, you can read it.

T: Psalm 119:12-16

Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!

With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.

In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

C: How does the person who wrote that psalm feel about God's rules, testimonies, and decrees?

T: He likes them. He says that he DELIGHTS in God's testimonies as much as he delights in riches!

C: That's right, Theo. I guess you could say that God's commands are like cookies to him—even better than cookies!

T: Wow! So, it's not like lima beans. He doesn't hear and memorize God's Word because he has to—but because he wants to!

C: One of the marks or characteristics of a wise person, Theo, is that he delights in the words of God. A wise person loves truth. A wise person loves the promises of God. A wise person loves kind ways, obedience, learning from the Word of God, searching the Bible for answers, doing what is right and turning away from what is wrong.

T: Wow!

C: Theo, I think this is a good time to hear this week's key Bible verse. It's another verse from the book of Psalms. PSALM 112:1. The Avanzado family are here to share it with us!

T: Yay! Let's hear it!

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T: I heard it! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD and who finds DELIGHT in his commands!

C: Yes. One of the signs that a person fears the Lord is that he loves the commands of the Lord—He loves what God loves. The Bible says that this person is blessed or happy.

T: Are there other Bible verses that tell us about this?

C: I'm glad you asked! We are going to look at a few more verses from the Book of Psalms. We would expect to find these kinds of verses in Psalms because the book of Psalms is actually a poetry book, poetry that they put to music.

T: I guess people tell their feelings more in poems.

C: You're right. The men who wrote the Psalms shared their feelings. I have a couple of Bible verses for you that I think you will like. Psalm 119: 98-99.

T: Hey! The first verses we read were from Psalm 119!

C: Yes they were. Psalm 119 is a very long psalm, the longest psalm in the Bible. It has 176 verses.

T: WOW!

C: One of the main ideas of the entire Psalm is how GOOD the Word of God is! The psalmist definitely DELIGHTS in God's Word!

T: Psalm 119. Verses 98 and 99??

C: Yes. You can read it when you find it.

T: Got it! Psalm 119:98-99

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.

WOW!

I can be wiser than my enemies and understand more things than my teachers!

C: That's what the verses say. How do you get that wise, though, Theo.

T: The verses say “Your commandments make me wiser”—God’s commandments!

C: That’s right! And how do you end up with more understanding than your teachers?

T: The Bible says, “Your testimonies are my meditation.” I’m not sure what that means.

C: When you love God, you will love His Word, Theo. His Words are His testimonies. The Bible verse is saying that the psalmist meditates, or thinks about, God’s Word. He doesn’t just read over it or quickly choke it down like you might do with a lima bean.

T: So God’s Word is more like a cookie?

C: Yes. You could say that. He loves God’s Word and spends time thinking about it and enjoys it like you like your cookie.

T: And that’s how I can understand more than my teachers?

C: Yes, that’s how.

T: I am already getting “A’s” in math now, Mrs. Scanio.

C: You have been working hard in math! You complete worksheets and take tests to see how well you’re doing in math, but it’s not as easy to find out about your heart.

T: You mean if I DELIGHT in God’s Word?

C: That’s it. It’s not as easy to find out if you love the ways of God and delight in the Lord’s commands. Are God’s Words more like lima beans, or a duty to you, or are they more like cookies, a delight and something you are happy to follow.

T: Hmmmm....I guess I don’t always know.

C: Do you love God’s commands? Do you love what is good and right or do you fight against it?

T: I mostly love to do what is right, Mrs. Scanio. How can I love God's Word even more?

C: Good question, Theo. But you cannot make yourself love the Lord's commands on your own. You can read and think about the Word of God and the way of wisdom but unless God gives you understanding, you will not see the goodness in the commands of God.

T: Reading the Bible isn't enough?

C: Reading the Bible is a very good thing! But no, it's not enough. As we like to say: It's all about the heart!

You can fill your mind with God's Word and His commands, but you cannot make your heart love what is good and right. For that, we need to ask God. God can change our heart and help us love the things He loves.

T: It's all about the heart. hmmmm... Do you have another Bible verse for me, Mrs. Scanio?

C: I have one to read to you, Theo. It's another verse from that very long Psalm. Psalm 119. This is verse 18.

Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

T: That verse sounds like a prayer to God. He is asking God to open his eyes so that he can see the good things in God's law!

C: That's exactly right. Let's make it our prayer, Theo. We can pray right now.

Dear God, You are a Holy God who knows all things. Thank you for giving us your Word, The Bible. Help us to DELIGHT in your commands and your testimonies. Please OPEN OUR EYES so that we may see the wonderful things in your law. In Jesus name, AMEN!

T: I want to love God's Word as much as I love cookies!

C: I want that too.

T: Mrs. Scanio! Where are the Key Themes this week? We usually pray AFTER the key themes!

C: I guess we are a little out of our usual order today, Theo. But I didn't forget. We have two key themes and they are right here. I will say the numbers. ONE

T: The wise man delights in the Lord's commands.

C: TWO

T: God gives love for His commands.

C: Someone who is wise delights in God's commands!

T: That was a good lesson today. I like that word—DELIGHT!—, Mrs. Scanio. I want to delight in God's Commands. But I still also delight in cookies!

C: (laughs) I know you do!

T: I need to go now. It's almost time for dinner. My mom said she's fixing something new tonight. I hope it's something I will DELIGHT in!

C: Oh Theo, I almost forgot. Your mom asked me to give this to you to bring home.

T: Oh Okay..

C: (gives split peas)

T: Ummm...what? Split peas? Hmmmm....well, okay. Goodbye Mrs. Scanio. Goodbye everyone