

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WALK IN WINSOME WISDOM

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN IMAGE BEARER  
SERIES: GOD IS PURE — I AM PURSUING

## BIG TRUTH: JESUS FOLLOWERS WALK IN WINSOME WISDOM

Deuteronomy 4:6; 2 Chronicles 1:10; Proverbs 28:26; Daniel 1:17-21

## BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

*“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”*

## BIG IDEAS

- Walking in wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.
- Walking in wisdom means choosing to leverage our time for God’s kingdom.
- Walking in wisdom means intentionally saturating our speech with the good news of the Gospel.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

### KNEEL - I AM AN IMAGE BEARER

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God’s glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- They exist for God’s glory
- The life of a Jesus follower is a life of constantly pursuing being more like Christ.



### Every student should feel...

- A deep love for God’s Word.
- Humbled that God would use us to make Him known.



### Every student should strive to...

- Spend time each day studying God’s Word and letting it shape their thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- Flee temptation and strive to “put off” sinful desires, thoughts, and actions.



### Every student should want...

- To have a healthy fear of the Lord that leads them to walk in His wisdom.
- To pursue Christlikeness in their attitudes, desires, thoughts, and actions.
- To walk in and model a life of purity because God is pure.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

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# JESUS FOLLOWERS WALK IN WINSOME WISDOM

## BIBLE VERSE: COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

*“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”*

### Believers are called to live wisely.

*“Walk in wisdom...”*

- Wisdom is a wise attitude, belief, and course of action. Wisdom is living with good sense and choosing rightly. Wisdom is from the Lord. God’s children have the ability to grow in Godly wisdom because they have the Holy Spirit inside of them. Through the Holy Spirit, believers can grow in their knowledge of God and their understanding of Him. By growing in their knowledge of God, they will have a right view of Him and will grow in their wisdom.
- Believers are commanded to walk wisely. This means that their lives are to be guided by the Word of God, the source of all wisdom. To live wisely is to live according to God’s commands and purposes. Believers’ lives should be lived in obedience to God’s Word and if so, they will live wisely.

### Believers live wisely in order to share the Gospel.

*“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.”*

- God’s people are the means through which those who do not know Him hear the Gospel. Believers are to live wisely so that they can share the good news of the Gospel with the lost people in their lives. By living according to God’s Word, believers put themselves in a position to share the truth about God with those who have yet to believe in Him.
- By living wisely, God’s people make the most of their time and position their lives in a way to enable them to encounter and share truth with lost people. Making the best use of the time means living in a way that makes it possible to show others the way to know God.

### Believers grow in wisdom to reach the lost.

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”*

- As believers grow in wisdom, their speech will be seasoned with salt. This means they will grow in their knowledge and understanding of God and will be able to share with each person they encounter the truth of the Gospel. Their speech will influence others to live Godly lives and to seek holiness.
- Believers should grow in their understanding and they should grow in wisdom to fulfill their purpose of glorifying God by making His name famous.

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WALK IN WINSOME WISDOM

## BIG IDEA #1: WALKING IN WISDOM BEGINS WITH THE FEAR OF THE LORD.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Colossians 4:2-4, Paul reveals his own personal reliance upon God to fulfill his purpose. Paul relied upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Godly life. Living a Godly life begins with a right reverence and awe of Christ. This reverence and awe is a fear that is not based in the threat of punishment, but a true understanding and acknowledgement that God is holy and we are not. Paul lived in fear of the Lord and he grew in wisdom. Paul relied upon God's wisdom and power to reach the lost and he did so effectively. As we seek to walk in wisdom, we must first understand that we are created by and serve a holy and righteous God who demands our worship and obedience. When we arrive at this place, we will begin to grow in wisdom.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### What does it mean to fear the Lord?

Proverbs 1:7 tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and those who despise instruction are fools. In order to have a right fear of God we must humble ourselves to be instructed and to grow in knowledge. 1 Peter 2:2 and 2 Peter 3:18 tell us to grow in our knowledge. By growing in our knowledge of God we will have a right fear of Him and then grow in wisdom. This type of fear is more of an awe of who God is and all that He does than it is worrying about punishment.

#### What keeps you from having a fear and awe of God?

Psalms 10:4 speaks of unbelievers when it says that those with pride do not seek God, but this verse applies to Jesus followers because often it is our pride and desire for self-sufficiency that keep us from seeking God and having a right fear of Him.

### [ THIS ]

All believers are called to walk in the wisdom of the Lord. Wisdom comes when we fear God and hold Him in the right place in our hearts and lives and we obey His Word. Fearing the Lord is living in the knowledge that there is none like God. He alone is God and worthy of all of our worship and respect. We should honor Him because He is God and He is perfect in every way. Paul understood this about the Christian life and he relied upon God's power and wisdom to fulfill his missions. Paul teaches that this reliance upon God is necessary for every believer to please God and reach the lost in their lives.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### How does Paul's reliance upon God's wisdom lead you to seek God's wisdom?

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul tells his readers to imitate him as he imitates Christ. Paul's imitation of Christ is seen in his reliance upon God's wisdom and not his own. As we follow Paul in relying upon God's wisdom, we will seek to grow in our knowledge and understanding of who God is and how He works in our lives. Ephesians 5:1 also tells us to imitate God. When we do this, we are fearing Him and obeying His commands in His Word. This is wisdom, fearing God and obeying Him.

#### How can we walk in wisdom this week?

Proverbs 3:7 tells us not to be wise in our own eyes, but to fear the Lord. By fearing the Lord, we are seeking His wisdom and desiring to live our lives according to His Word. James 1:5 tells us that if we lack wisdom, we should ask God for it and He gives it generously to those who ask believing. James 3:17 reminds us of the type of wisdom that we receive from God. By knowing God we can walk in wisdom because we will know His Word and be on our way to understanding how to please Him.

1. Proverbs 9:10: Growing in God's wisdom begins with a right and reverent view of God.

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WALK IN WINSOME WISDOM

## BIG IDEA #2: WALKING IN WISDOM MEANS CHOOSING TO LEVERAGE OUR TIME FOR GOD'S KINGDOM.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

When Paul tells the Colossian believers to walk wisely toward outsiders, he is instructing them to consider how they are interacting and living with unbelievers. Outsiders are those who are outside the church, or those who are not followers of Christ. It matters how we live with unbelievers because our lives can affect our ability to speak truth to lost people. We must consider how we behave and how we live our daily lives. When we walk wisely toward unbelievers, we will choose our words carefully, and we will consider our choices, behaviors, and how we interact with the world around us. We will have our focus on pleasing God because this will enable us to treat others as God commands us to treat them.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **In what ways do you need to adjust your behavior toward those outside of the church?**

Matthew 5:16 teaches us that we should live in such a way that people around us know we are followers of Christ. We should live in a way that shows people we are living faithfully what we believe. 1 Peter 2:15-16 tells us to live as the free people we are, but to do so that we might please God, not so we can satisfy our flesh. When we seek to please God, we will carefully consider how we are living with unbelievers because their eternities will be on our minds.

### [ THIS ]

As believers walk in wisdom, they will choose to live their lives for God's kingdom. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells His followers to seek His kingdom first. When we seek His kingdom first, above all other things, we will make building His kingdom our top priority. This means we will plan our lives in such a way that we position ourselves to best reach those far away from God, we will build fellow believers up in love, and we will die to ourselves daily so that we might glorify God in every way. We will spend our time wisely to make sure that we are spending it to further God's kingdom. As we live for God's kingdom, we will gain an understanding that His kingdom is our eternity and the present life we live is temporary and meant to be lived sacrificially for Christ.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What distracts you from focusing on furthering God's kingdom rather than this temporary life?**

Proverbs 4:25 tells us to keep our eyes focused on our future eternity. Often we are distracted by the things of this world, temporary pleasures, when we take our eyes off of God and our future eternity. James 4:7 reminds us to submit ourselves to God. When we fail to daily submit to the leading of God's Spirit in our lives, we can become easily distracted from living for His kingdom. Hebrews 12:1 reminds us that we have examples set before us and when we are hindered by our sin, we can become distracted and not run our race faithfully.

#### **How can you leverage your time for God's kingdom this week?**

James 4:14 teaches us that our lives on earth are vapors—here today and gone tomorrow. Psalm 90:12 teaches us that we have to learn to number our days and to use our time wisely. Colossians 4:5 teaches us to use our time wisely. As we focus on serving God, we will use our time wisely and plan our days and weeks to further God's kingdom.

2. Colossians 4:2: As believers, our lives should be lived for God's glory and we should seek His kingdom first. Our lives should be focused on building His kingdom and not our own.

# JESUS FOLLOWERS WALK IN WINSOME WISDOM

## BIG IDEA #3: WALKING IN WISDOM MEANS INTENTIONALLY SATURATING OUR SPEECH WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Colossians 4:3-4, Paul asks for prayer to clearly share the Gospel. Then in Colossians 4:6, he tells the Colossian believers to let their speech be seasoned with salt. Salt has historically been used as a preservative for certain foods and has changed the texture and nature of other foods. The Gospel changes lives and when our speech is seasoned with salt, we are speaking the truth of the Gospel clearly and faithfully because we know it changes lives. In order for our speech to be seasoned with salt, our lives must be saturated with the truth of the Gospel. We must remind ourselves of the Gospel that has changed our lives daily in order to have the good news on our lips. We must seek to know the Gospel, to have it permeate every part of our lives so that we might share it clearly with others.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### What struggles do you have when presenting the Gospel?

Psalm 119:105 tells us that God's Word is a light to our path. When we fail to know God's Word and to study it, we do not have this light guiding our path. When we encounter lost people, we may not know the words to say or feel inadequate in sharing because we have not disciplined ourselves to be in God's Word. 2 Timothy 3:12 tells us that those who seek to please God will face persecution. Often fear of being ridiculed or mistreated keeps us from sharing the Gospel.

### [ THIS ]

The Gospel is good news and we should treat it as the good news that it is! We must live this good news out. When we live our daily lives believing the Gospel is the greatest news we have ever received, we will saturate our speech with it. It will be on our lips and in our minds always. Walking in wisdom means walking in this truth. Living each day reminding ourselves that in our sin we were far from Christ and deserved death, yet, God sent Jesus to save us. Living this truth out means we are eager to share this good news with others who are far from Christ because we know and truly believe it is life-saving and live-transforming.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### What can you do this week to remind your heart of the good news of the gospel so that you will be ready to talk about it with others?

Psalm 143:5 serves as a lesson to us. When we reflect upon the work of Christ on the cross daily, we will saturate our minds and lips with the Gospel because it will be on the forefront our minds. Psalm 119:15 speaks to meditating on God's Word. As we meditate on God's Word daily, we will fill ourselves up with His truth. We will grow in our love for Christ and we will want others to know Him as we do.

#### Who is someone you can share the good news of the gospel with this week?

Matthew 28:18-20 is the Great Commission given to all of God's people. We all have the command to go into the world and to share the good news of the Gospel. 2 Corinthians 5:20 also reminds us that we are Christ's ambassadors and we have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to share this good news with others.

3. Colossians 4:6: Our speech should be seasoned with salt and should point others to Christ.