

This year your child will be taught a curriculum called THE WAY OF THE WISE. The curriculum contrasts the foolish person and the wise person. The foolish person loves what is wrong and acts on that love; the wise person loves what is good and right and acts on that love. Everyone is born on the way of the foolish. Proverbs 22:15 says that “folly is bound up in the heart of a child...”

Those who have not trusted in Jesus as Savior are walking the way of the foolish on the path to destruction. But there is great news! There is a bridge from the way of the foolish to the way of the wise—trusting in JESUS. Jesus is the only sure foundation in life and the *only* bridge over to the way of the wise.

May Jesus be your sure foundation and may you diligently instruct your child in the way of the wise. These early years are a window of opportunity for instruction that quickly closes.

When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.

Proverbs 4:3-9

May you wisely instruct your child in the way of God.

May your child hear your words and heed them. And may he treasure wisdom in his heart.

Each week you will be receiving a Parent Resource Page. The suggestions on the pages are intended to help you reinforce what has been taught in class and to help you instruct your child in the way of the wise. Classroom teaching is much more effective when combined with parental partnership as parents are in the unique position of helping children daily apply the truths presented in class.

In addition, there are four badges that your child can earn:

PROVERBS READING BADGE—Read the book of Proverbs.

MEMORY VERSE BADGE—Memorize 15 verses from the book of Proverbs.

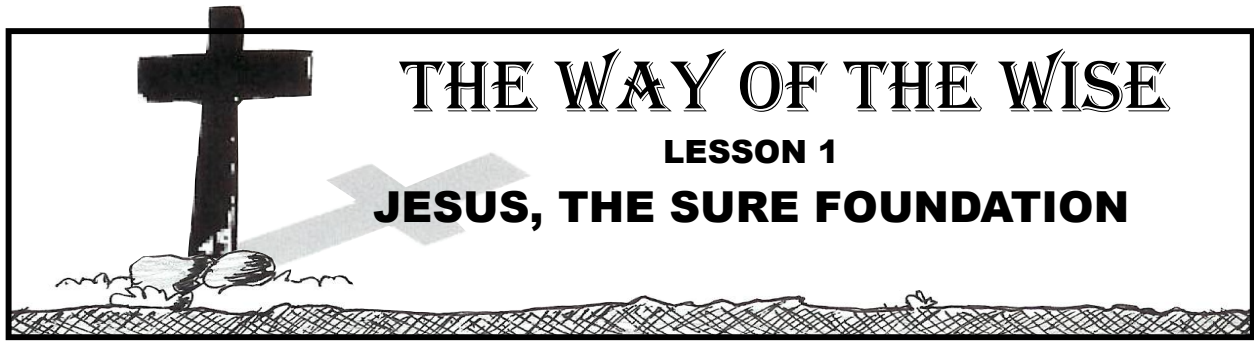
READING BADGE—Read *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE* by C.S. Lewis.

PUTTING PROVERBS INTO PRACTICE BADGE—Choose three proverbs to act upon. Put each proverb into practice eight times.

Charts will be provided for the Proverbs Reading Badge, the Memory Verse Badge, and the Putting Proverbs into Practice Badge. These badges will be most beneficial if parents help the children successfully complete the badges. Please send in the charts when they are completed and inform the teacher when your child (or you and your child) have read *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE*.

It is our great desire that through this study not only will your child understand the difference between walking the way of the foolish and walking the way of the wise, but that your child will fear the Lord and walk in all His ways.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the person(s) below:



SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 5:12; 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 3:11

KEY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 3:11—For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

KEY THEMES:

- † Wise men listen to and obey the words of Jesus; foolish men do not listen to and obey the words of Jesus
- † Those with a solid foundation are safe and live; those with a sandy foundation will perish
- † Standing on a good foundation is very important
- † Everyone is born in sin on a sandy foundation
- † Jesus is the only sure foundation

THIS WEEK:

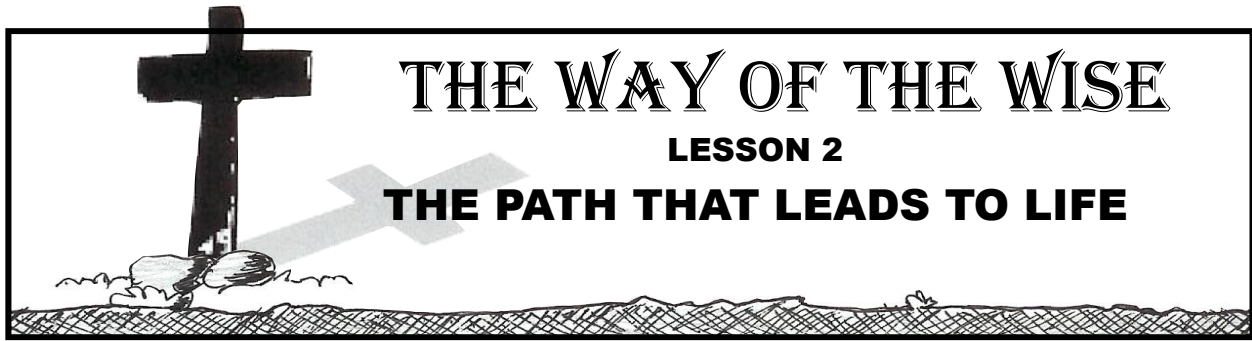
Notice “foundations” with your child—watch a building being built and talk about how strong the foundation must be; as he climbs on something to reach an upper cupboard, comment on how important it is for him to have a sure foundation; see if you can find some unsure foundations. Talk about the importance of a good foundation.

Talk about foundations in life—what a person trusts. Talk about different things that people trust. You may want to give your child some examples. Talk about how every foundation other than Jesus fails eventually and help your child to think of examples of this. (A person trusting in good health will eventually die; a person trusting in money although he may never lose his fortune, cannot buy happiness, good health, or good relationships, etc.) You may want to illustrate this with the life of someone you know.

Help your child notice this week what he trusts. NOTE: It is not wrong for a child to trust in parents, but ultimately you must point your child to Jesus as the only sure, eternal, never-failing foundation. Share with your child the life of someone you know who has died and trusted in Jesus as his sure foundation. Explain to your child some of the hard things this person has experienced and how Jesus was a solid foundation for him.

Make sure your child understands that everyone is born with a sandy foundation and remains on that foundation unless he is trusting in Jesus as his Savior. Explain how you moved from a sandy foundation to a solid foundation. Encourage your child to ask other Christians he knows how they came to trust in Jesus as their solid foundation. (You may want to suggest people your child can ask about this and arrange the opportunity for your child to do this.)

Start reading *THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE* by C.S. Lewis with your child.



SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:13-14; Isaiah 35:8-10; Proverbs 4:11-15

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 4:13—Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

KEY THEMES:

- † There are two paths through life
- † The Way of the Wise leads to heaven
- † The Way of the Foolish leads to hell
- † Jesus is the door to the Way of the Wise
- † The Bible warns us to stay on the Way of the Wise and to avoid the Way of the Foolish

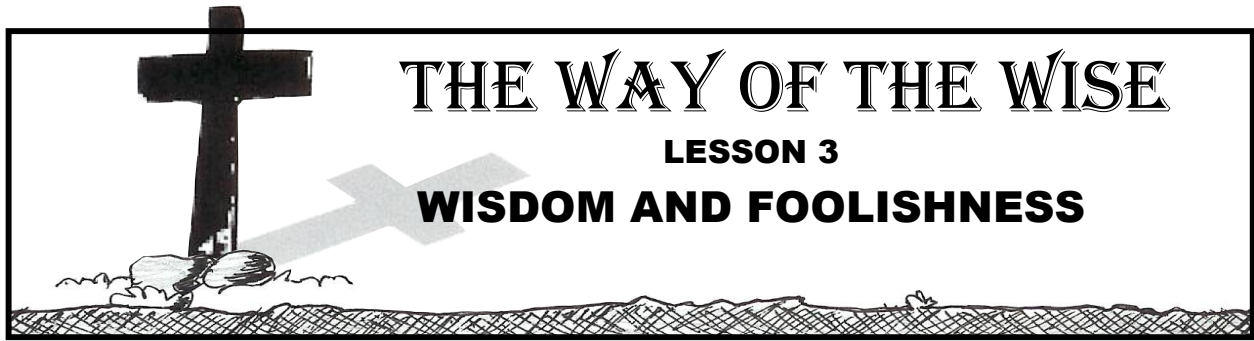
THIS WEEK:

Go exploring with your child this week to find out where unfamiliar roads lead. Remind your child that each road goes somewhere.

Remind your child that there are two roads or paths to travel through life as well. Discuss the difference between the way of the foolish and the way of the wise. Help your child this week to discover what is foolish and what is wise. Talk about ways he can avoid the path of foolishness. Remind your child that the Bible tells us to stay as far away from the path of foolishness as we can. Help your child to see where he could be walking too close to the path of foolishness, and where he is careful to stay far away from the path of foolishness.

Look for examples of those walking the Way of the Wise and those walking the Way of the Foolish (e.g., in the newspaper or in the news, in a book of short biographies, in your community).

Encourage your child to start reading the book of Proverbs and continue reading *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE*.



THE WAY OF THE WISE

LESSON 3

WISDOM AND FOOLISHNESS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Acts 4:32-5:10 (James 3:13-18; Proverbs 10:23; 20:11; Psalm 112:1)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 10:23—A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.

KEY THEMES:

- † Wisdom is loving what is good and right and acting on that love
- † Foolishness is loving what is bad and wrong and acting on that love

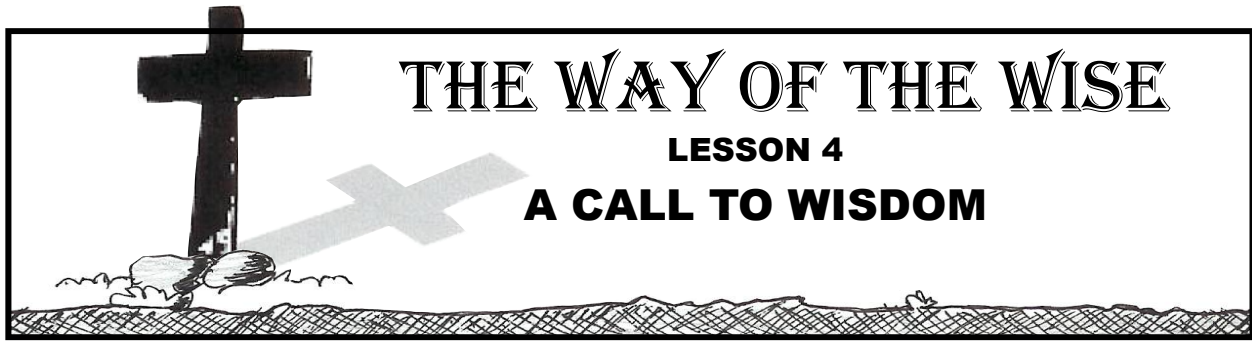
THIS WEEK:

Help your child learn the definitions of wisdom and foolishness from the key themes. Be sure your child understands that actions come from heart affections. Give some illustrations of this in your child's life and ask him to give some illustrations (e.g., he eats pickles because he likes pickles, he watches baseball because he likes baseball, he chooses a certain kind of candy bar because it is the one he likes).

When you observe either good or bad behavior in your child, ask him what is in his heart at that moment. Help him to see that his actions flow from his heart. Encourage your child when you see good behavior as a reflection of good heart attitudes. When you see bad behavior, help your child to examine his heart attitudes and encourage him to deal appropriately with those attitudes.

Tell your child that you would like to help him to act on a good heart attitude this week. Ask him to let you know about some good heart attitude that he notices (sympathy for a sick person, concern for an unsaved person, generosity toward a certain family, etc.), then discuss with him some practical way he can show that heart attitude (make a card for the sick person or visit someone in the hospital, give a Bible to the unsaved person or share a verse with him, etc.) Then help your child to follow through on his good intentions.

Encourage your child in his Proverbs reading and continue reading THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE until you finish the book.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1:1-6, 8-9; 2:10; 3:1; 17:22; 15:1; 19:11

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 3:1—My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart.

KEY THEMES:

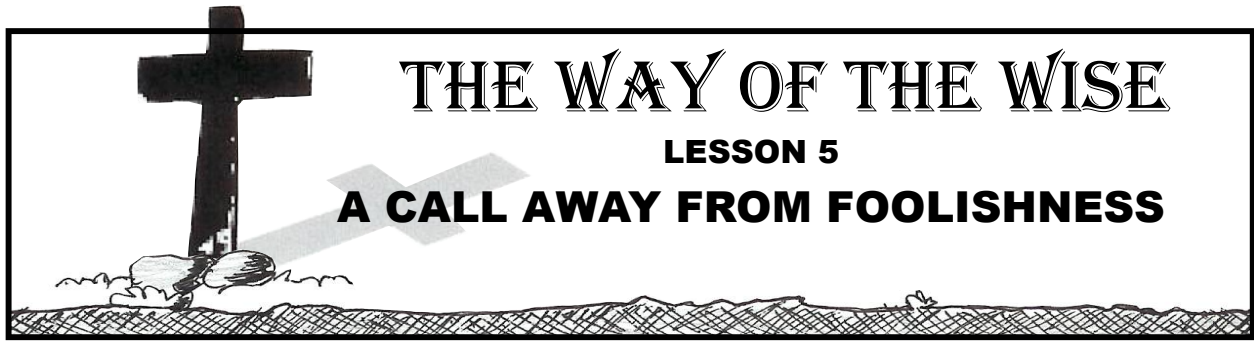
- † If you are a child of God, you have a call to wisdom on your life
- † Wisdom is beautiful and brings happiness
- † Wisdom needs to be in the heart, not just in the head

THIS WEEK:

Look at an equipment manual and help your child to understand how the manual helps a person understand how to operate the piece of equipment. Read a few of the instructions in the manual and help your child to learn how the equipment works.

Explain to your child that the book of Proverbs is an instruction manual for life. Spend some time looking at some proverbs and help your child understand how to practically apply those proverbs. Your child may want to make a poster of one of the proverbs to hang on the refrigerator as a reminder to the family how to live. Practice this proverb often and point out when it is practiced in your home. Help your child see how following this good instruction brings joy to the family.

Look at the PROVERBS READING CHART with your child. Encourage him to check off each chapter on the chart as he reads it. Encourage him to share one proverb from each chapter with the family as he reads through the book of Proverbs. You may want to encourage your child to underline his favorite proverbs in his Bible.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1:20-21; 1:10-19; 4:13, 20-23 (Proverbs 4:25-27)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 4:27—Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

KEY THEMES:

- † Foolishness is not just doing things that are silly and stupid; it is doing things that are wrong and loving things that are wrong
- † A call to wisdom is a call away from foolishness
- † To walk in the way of wisdom, a person should hold onto instruction, guard his heart, and keep his feet from evil

THIS WEEK:

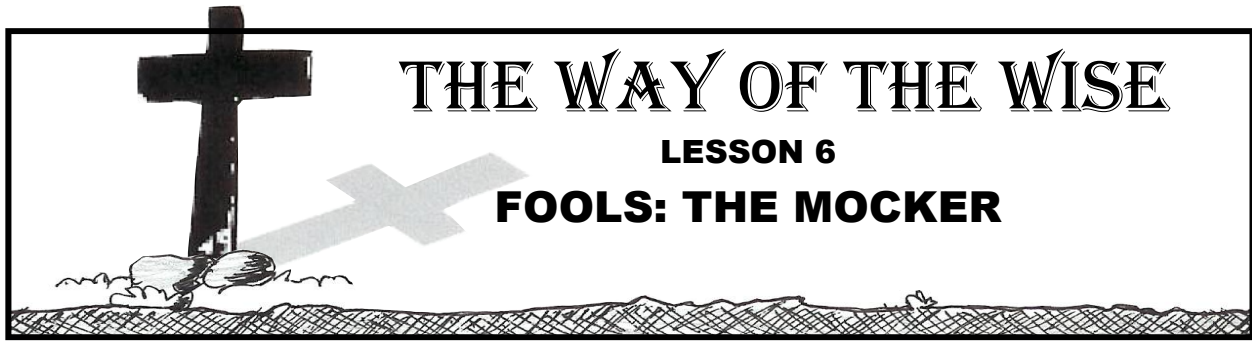
Discuss with your child how foolishness calls to him (e.g., how foolishness calls to him through the television, the internet, friends, music). Help him to discover where foolishness tugs at his heart (where he is vulnerable). Discuss with him how he can walk away from this foolishness. Help him to take any appropriate practical steps.

Practice “Standing Guard” this week. Explain to your child that you will help him conscientiously practice “standing guard” over his heart this week. When a situation arises in which your child is tempted to react foolishly with a bad attitude or action, you will encourage him by saying, “Stand Guard!” This is to be a **friendly reminder** to guard his heart. For example:

Mom tells the child to take out the garbage and notices a frown on the child’s face alerting her that he is struggling with his attitude. She *encouragingly* says, “Stand Guard!” to remind the child to watch diligently over his heart.

Make sure your tone is one of encouragement, not reprimand.

Encourage your child in his reading of the book of Proverbs.



SCRIPTURE: Exodus 5:1b-2b, 10:7b; Daniel 4:30; Luke 22:64b, 23:39-40;
Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 4:27

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 1:1—Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

KEY THEMES:

- † There are different kinds of fools
- † A mocking fool makes fun of God and the things of God; he does not respect God or love what is good
- † The wise person does not participate with mocking fools

THIS WEEK:

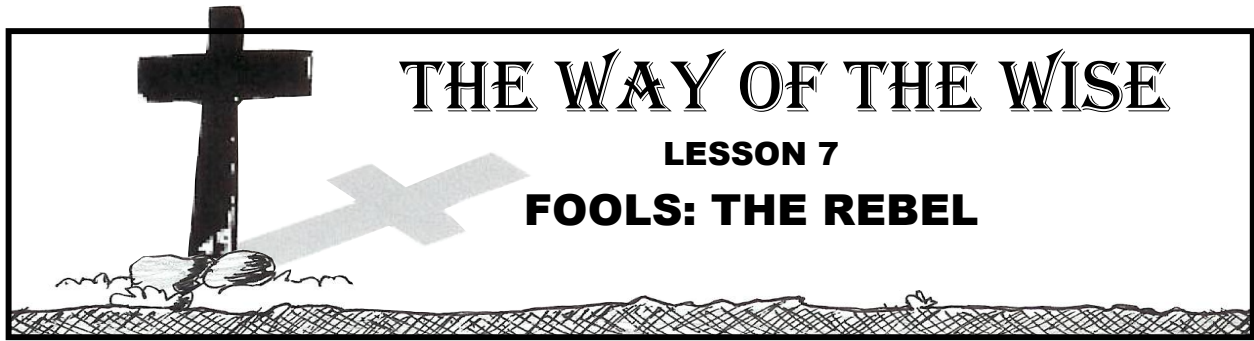
Read with your child, Exodus 5:1-12:42. Note with your child how Pharaoh mocked God.

Discuss with your child how people mock God today. Ask them for examples they see [in school/among other kids/in society] of people mocking God.

Look for examples this week of things that mock God (bumper stickers, billboards, posters, people's words and behavior, television programs, quotes, etc.). Help your child to see that our society has little respect for God or His word. Discuss with your child how your family can refuse to "sit in the seat of mockers". What conscious efforts can your family make to avoid mocking influences?

For a family activity night you might want to take the examples that you found this week and show the truth instead. For example: One example you found may be a pro-choice bumper sticker. Ask the children of a verse that shows that this mocks God. Then design a pro-life bumper sticker.

Encourage your child to start memorizing his favorite proverbs.



THE WAY OF THE WISE

LESSON 7

FOOLS: THE REBEL

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-26; Proverbs 3:1-2; 17:21; Matthew 3:17;
Proverbs 10:1b

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 10:1b—A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.

KEY THEMES:

- † The rebellious fool is stubborn and continues in evil
- † Foolish children bring grief to their parents; wise children bring them joy

THIS WEEK:

Remind your child that all of us have rebellion in our hearts and that we can either encourage that rebellion or stand against it. Share with your child this week some times when you felt rebellion rise up in your heart and what you did against it. (This should be an ongoing discussion. For example, “Today I felt rebellion rise in my heart when...”)

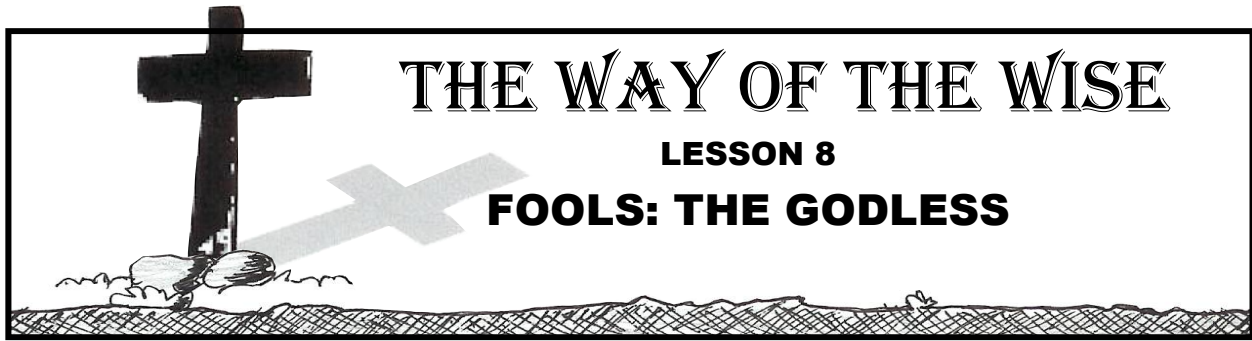
Help your child to identify rebellious feelings and dialogue about what actions come from those feelings. Talk about how to make a conscious effort to turn to God to take away rebellion in the heart. Give your child some concrete ideas of what to do when he feels rebellion rise in his heart.

When you notice behavior that appears to spring from rebellion, ask your child to examine his heart and to talk about what he is feeling. Encourage him to deal with the rebellion in his heart appropriately.

Encourage your child to share his experiences with rebellion this week and what he did about it. Encourage him to handle rebellion appropriately.

Share with your child the story of a child who is now an adult who brought either joy or grief to his parents.

Encourage your child in his Proverbs reading and memorizing.



SCRIPTURE: Psalm 10:4, 14:1; Luke 16:19-31

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 14:1—The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

KEY THEMES:

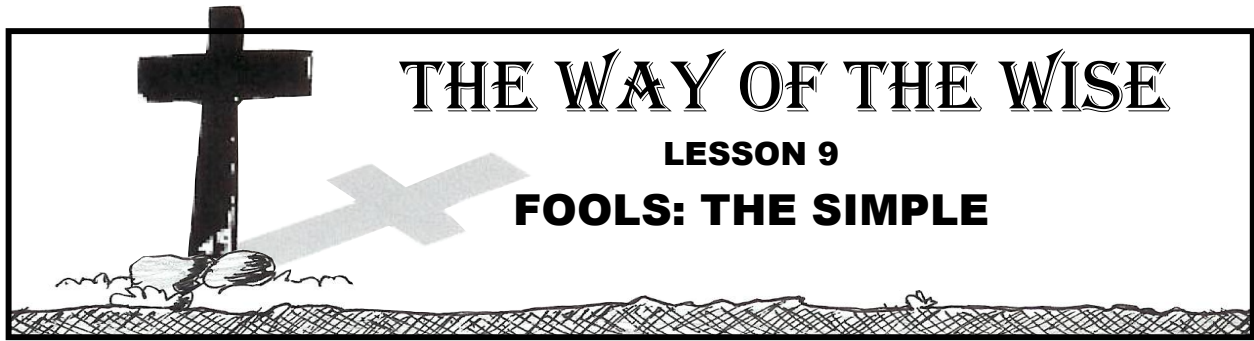
- † Fools have no room in their hearts for God
- † Fools say in their hearts that there is no God

THIS WEEK:

Remind your child that a person can say there is a God but in his heart there is no room for God. He lives without any interest in God or any room for God in his life. His words may say that there is a God, but his life says that there is no God. Discuss with your child how a person lives as if there is no God. Show your child that saying words about God is not enough; a true Christian involves God in his life and "makes room" for God in his life.

Make a time chart with your child this week showing how he spends his time. (You may want every member of the family to do this.) At the end of the week, study the chart and talk about what it shows about what is important to your child. Explain to your child that the way we spend our time is often an indicator of what is important to our hearts. (It is also sometimes an indicator of poor planning.) Evaluate the appropriateness of how time was spent and decide if any changes need to be made. If change is necessary, help your child to draw up a proposed weekly schedule to make sure the important things of God don't get shoved aside. (This would be a good exercise for the whole family. You could then evaluate in a month if the schedule is working.) Pray for your hearts that have a tendency to shove God out rather than invite God in.

Encourage your child in his Proverbs reading and memorizing.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 14:15; 1 Samuel 15:23b, 24; Proverbs 13:20 (Psalm 19:7)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 13:20—He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

KEY THEMES:

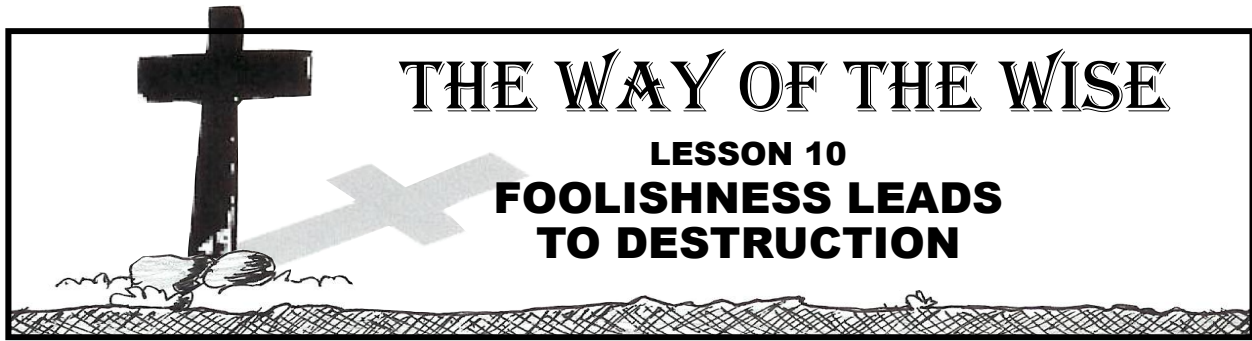
- † A simple fool believes anything; a wise man thinks things through
- † Being with wise people can help you become wise;
being with fools can help you become foolish

THIS WEEK:

As you encounter false but believable statements this week, share them with your child (e.g., a slogan from an advertisement, a bumper sticker, something someone at work said, a line from a political speech, etc.). Remind your child that the simple fool believes anything but a wise man thinks things through. Help your child to think these collected statements through and see the foolishness in them. (Or you may want to collect true and false statements and help your child discern which things are true and which are false.) Encourage your child to start collecting statements to evaluate, and then help him to evaluate them Biblically and logically.

Make an effort for you child to spend time with a wise person this week (and regularly). For example: visit a godly grandparent or older person. Ask questions that will help reveal to your child the wisdom this person has acquired over the years (e.g., “Tell me about some of the lessons you have learned in life.”; “Was there a time when you learned your lesson the hard way?”; “What have you learned about the faithfulness of God during your lifetime?”). After the visit encourage your child to contrast the experience with time spent with his friends. Ask him what he learned from the older person. Remind him that being with wise person helps a person become wise. You may want to make a conscious effort or a regular time to visit with wise people.

Encourage your child in his Proverbs reading and memorizing.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1:20-33; 1 Samuel 13:13-14, 15:2-3

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 1:32—For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them.

KEY THEMES:

† Foolishness leads to destruction

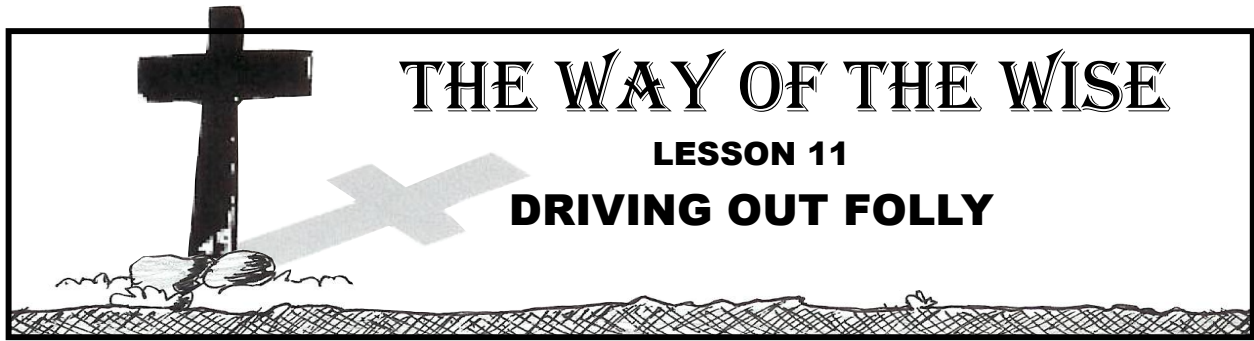
THIS WEEK:

Remind your child that everyone does something foolish or wrong and that there is a difference between doing something foolish and repenting from it and doing something foolish and continuing in your foolishness. Explain that the true fool continues in his foolishness; the wise man repents and runs from foolishness.

This week share with your child some life stories of foolish people whose lives have ended in destruction. These may be examples of people you know, people from history, people you have read about, or people from the Bible. In each case, make the point that foolishness leads to destruction. You may want to take one person and chart out the foolish events in his life with your child. (The chart could be made in the form of a downward spiral.) Talk with your child about what could have been the underlying heart attitude behind the foolish actions. Remind your child that sometimes the results of foolishness are not obviously seen for many years, but that continued foolishness always ends in destruction.

Read some fairy tales with your child. Point out that in the end, good wins and evil loses. Remind your child that even though these are not true stories, the principle that foolishness leads to destruction is a Biblical truth.

Encourage your child in his Proverbs reading and memorizing.



THE WAY OF THE WISE

LESSON 11

DRIVING OUT FOLLY

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:15; Numbers 12; Proverbs 3:11-12; Psalm 14:1-3
(Hebrews 12:11)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 22:15—Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

KEY THEMES:

- † Folly is within the heart of everyone
- † God's tool for driving out folly in the heart of a child is discipline
- † Discipline is an act of love
- † We should welcome discipline

THIS WEEK:

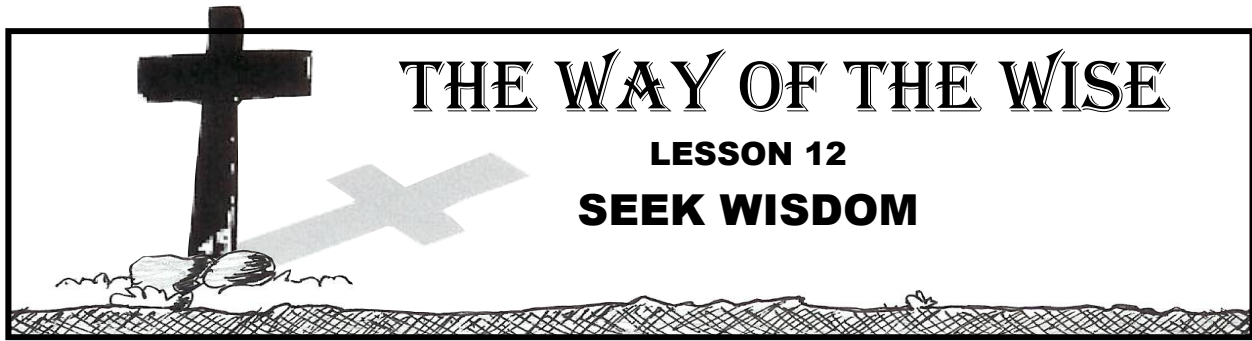
Talk with your child about a time (or various times) when one of your parents or someone else appropriately disciplined you. Talk about your attitude about it at the time and your attitude about it now. Talk about the results of that discipline. Show your child that it was good for your soul that you were disciplined.

Let your child share some of his own experiences with discipline and help him to evaluate those experiences appropriately.

Discuss with your child that discipline is an act of love. Along with your child, give examples of this.

Help your child to make a chart with room for 10 responses. Label the chart "HOW I FEEL ABOUT DISCIPLINE" or "MY ATTITUDE TOWARD DISCIPLINE". Encourage your child to fill out the chart in the next few weeks, noting his attitude after a discipline situation. When the chart is filled out, discuss the responses with your child and help him to determine his normal response toward discipline. (Perhaps you may also discover ways that you can discipline which makes it easier for your child to have a positive response.) Then work with your child to help him develop a strategy for how to respond positively toward discipline.

Encourage your child in his Proverbs reading and memorizing.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:15; 4:3-9; 3:13-18, 21-26

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 4:7—Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

KEY THEMES:

- † Seek wisdom and seek it intensely
- † Wisdom is a treasure

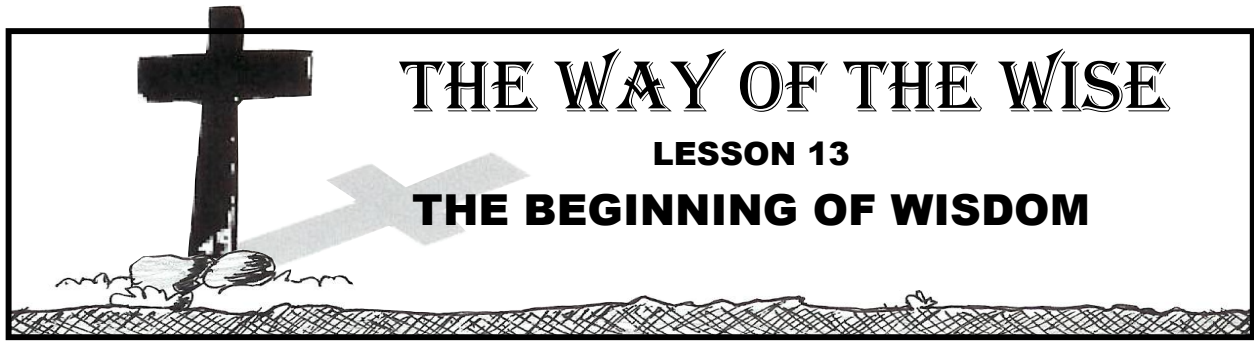
THIS WEEK:

Look through the book of Proverbs with your child. If he has underlined some of his favorite proverbs, discuss with him why he underlined those proverbs and what they mean. (If he has not underlined in his Bible, help him to pick out some favorite proverbs.) Share some of your favorite proverbs with your child and explain why these are favorite verses to you.

Help your child choose three proverbs to “put into practice”. Make sure your child understands the practical application of these proverbs.

Ask your child to write out each proverb he chose on a *PUTTING PROVERBS INTO PRACTICE* sheet. Explain to him that we are to obey the Bible, not just read it, and the chart will help him practice what the Bible teaches. Encourage him to fill out a slot on the chart every time he puts one of his chosen proverbs into practice. Remind him that when the charts are finished, he will earn a badge. Encourage him to put the proverbs into practice each week. (When he has completed the charts, you may want to choose another proverb. You may want to make this a family project with everyone in the family keeping a chart.)

Encourage your child in his Proverbs reading and memorizing.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 9:10; Isaiah 33:5-6; Exodus 20:20
(Ecclesiastes 12:13; Job 28:28; Proverbs 8:13a; Hebrews 12:29)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 9:10—The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

KEY THEMES:

- † The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
- † God is a “consuming fire” and He is good

THIS WEEK:

Discuss with your child the difference between “being afraid” of God and “fearing” God.

Talk about why we are afraid of certain people. (List some things that would make us afraid of them.) Help your child to see why a child of God does not need to be afraid of God. Discuss the following statement: “God will not act in a way that is inconsistent with His nature.” Ask your child why this can give him the confidence to trust God rather than be afraid of Him.

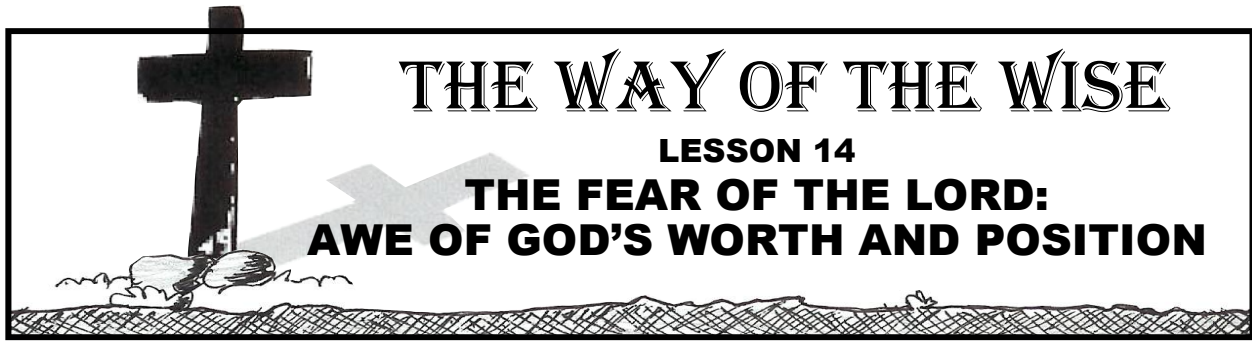
Discuss with your child why we should fear God and what fearing God looks like.

Look for evidences this week of :

- 1)people fearing God
- 2)people not fearing God

Ask your child to look for evidences in his life that he fears or that he does not fear God.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing. Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:25; Psalm 89:6-7; Luke 5:1-11; Isaiah 6:1-5; Job 38-41; Psalm 113:5-6; Isaiah 40:22

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 89:6-7—For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

KEY THEMES:

- † There is no one like God; God is in a category by Himself
- † The fear of the Lord means to be in awe of God's worth and position

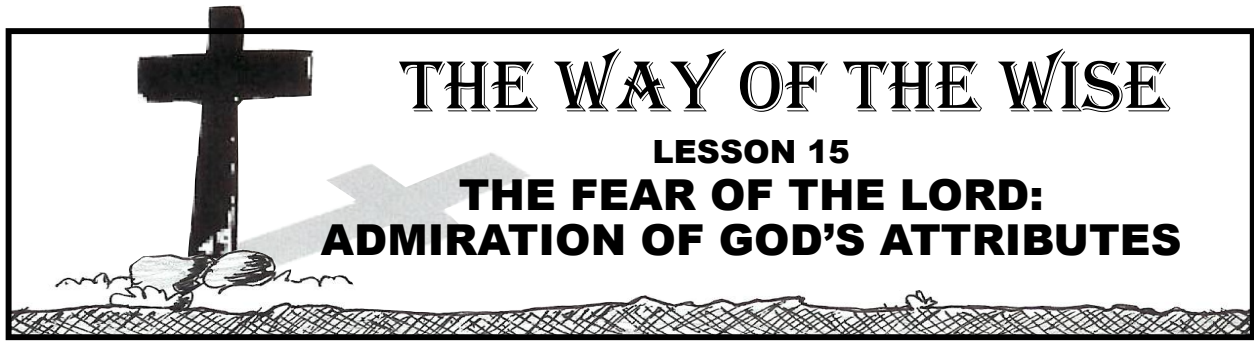
THIS WEEK:

Make a list with your child of people in positions of authority or prestige (e.g., president, policeman, boss, senator, pastor). Then help your child think through for each person what rights that person has because of their position and the way people treat them. Ask your child why each person is treated specially.

Talk about the boss of your company and the "rules" (company policies) he has established. (If you are self-employed, use someone else as an example.) Explain to your child the need to be in subjection to the rules or policies that your boss has established and the consequences of breaking the rules.

Talk about God's position as Creator, Ruler, and Sustainer of the whole universe—including man and your child. Ask your child what rights this gives God and how He should be treated. Talk about the "rules" God has established, His right to do so and the consequences of breaking His rules. Explain that our obedience of God's laws are an indication of how much we honor or respect Him in our hearts. (We tend to follow or obey those whom we respect.)

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing. Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33:6-11; Jeremiah 32:17; Psalm 147:4; Exodus 7-14; Psalm 89:6-8
(Jeremiah 10:6-7; Psalm 33:18)

KEY VERSE:

Jeremiah 10:6-7—No one is like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.

KEY THEMES:

- † God is perfect in everything He does and everything He is
- † We should admire God because of what He is like; we should admire God because of His perfections
- † Admiring God leads us to trust Him

THIS WEEK:

Discuss with your child someone you admire. Explain why you admire that person. Then ask your child to tell about someone he admires and why he admires that person. Be sure to point out the qualities in that person which evoke admiration.

Compare these people you admire to God. Show how vastly superior God is than the people you admire.

Help your child make a list of the attributes of God. Put the list in a prominent place (e.g., on the refrigerator) and keep adding to it all week as other attributes come to mind. Each day discuss with your child two or three of the attributes. (Define the attribute, give examples from the Bible of how God displays that attribute, talk about how this attribute of God affects you, etc.) **NOTE:** Save this list to be used again after Lesson 17 is taught.

Identify with your child one area in which he struggles (e.g., worry, fear, laziness). Discuss God's adequacy to help His children with their areas of need (both His power to help as well as any attribute that would show that the feelings are logically inconsistent with the character of God—i.e. worry is logically inconsistent because God has promised to meet all our needs, He is our Provider, etc.). If your child is a child of God, help him to see that understanding the greatness of God and God's ability to help him is inadequate. One must truly embrace this truth in the heart. Encourage your child to fight the fight of faith by standing on the truth, and consciously turning this area over to God and asking for His help. Explain that it will take a lot of "practice" but that eventually, he will experience some victory. If your child is not a believer, help him to see that all his efforts are inadequate and only God is sufficient to help.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 7:7-9; Judges 2:11-12; 3:9; 3:12; 3:15a; 4:1-2a; 4:3b; 4:23; 6:1; 8:33; Acts 9:1-19; Psalm 103:11; 1 John 3:1a (Psalm 147:11, 31:19; Acts 8:13)

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 147:11— The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

KEY THEMES:

- † God's love for His people is unfailing
- † The fear of the Lord includes being amazed at His love

THIS WEEK:

Do something unexpectedly nice for your child this week—something that you know will amaze him. In his excitement over what you have done, remind him that this is a very tiny picture of the kind of love and kindness that God has for His children.

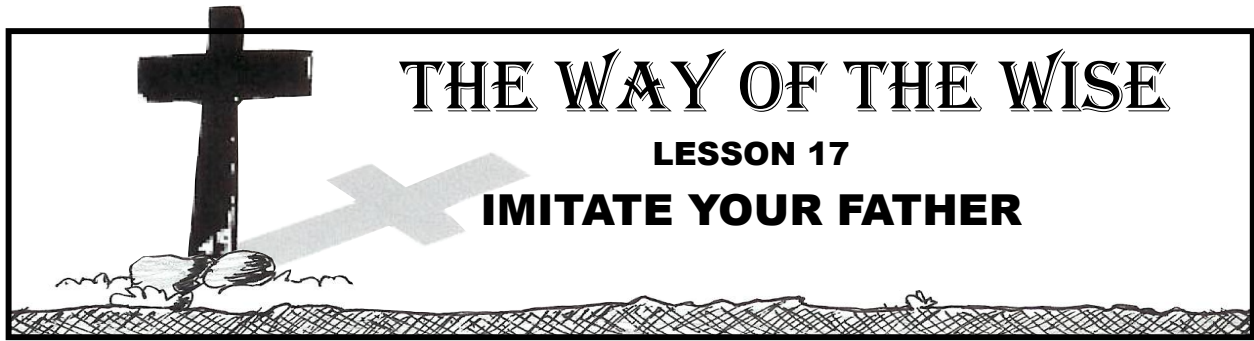
Help your child brainstorm about the ways in which God shows His love for His children. (These can be from Biblical examples or from personal experience.) Have a time of prayer thanking God for His unfailing love.

Sing some worship songs together as a family. (If you are not musical, play a recording and sing along with it.)

Your family may want to make up a song or a poem about God's amazing love.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86:11 (3 John 1:11)

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 86:11—Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

KEY THEMES:

- † God can give us an undivided heart
- † God can teach us the way of wisdom
- † We must look to God and imitate Him

THIS WEEK:

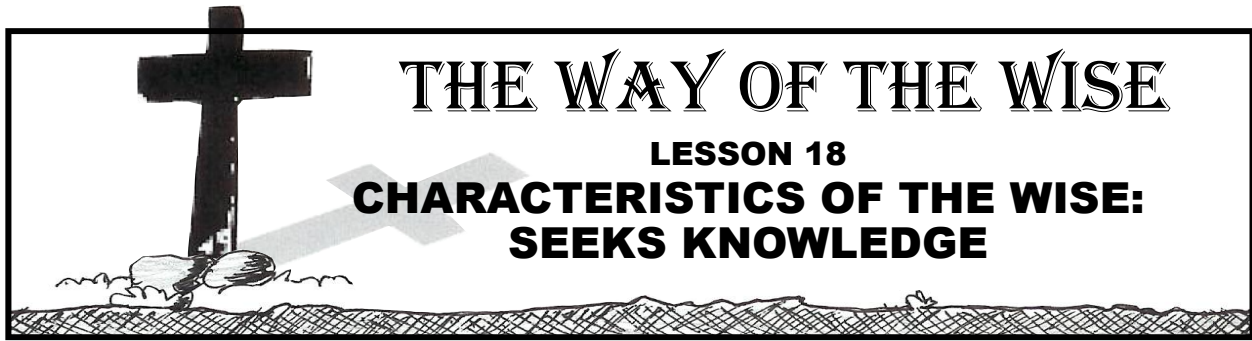
Discuss with your child the natural tendency we have to imitate those whom we admire. Give a few examples of this and ask your child to think of an example.

Take the list of God's attributes that you made two weeks ago and each day take two or three of the attributes and brainstorm about ways in which you can imitate that attribute. Make sure the suggestions are practical.

Encourage your child to take one of these practical suggestions each day and act on it and then report back to the family about his experience at suppertime. (This is an activity the whole family can participate in and share their experiences with each other.) Be sure to remind your child that there is a difference between actions that flow from the heart and those which are done for other reasons. Encourage him to act when he feels that it is flowing from the heart and not just in order to have something to share with the family.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 18:15; John 3:1-15, 19:38-39; Proverbs 18:2, 23:9
(Proverbs 9:9; Ecclesiastes 7:19)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 18:15—The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise person seeks knowledge and understanding.
- † Seeking knowledge is an active thing; it is something that takes work
- † Fools do not seek knowledge and understanding but rather remain in their ignorance

THIS WEEK:

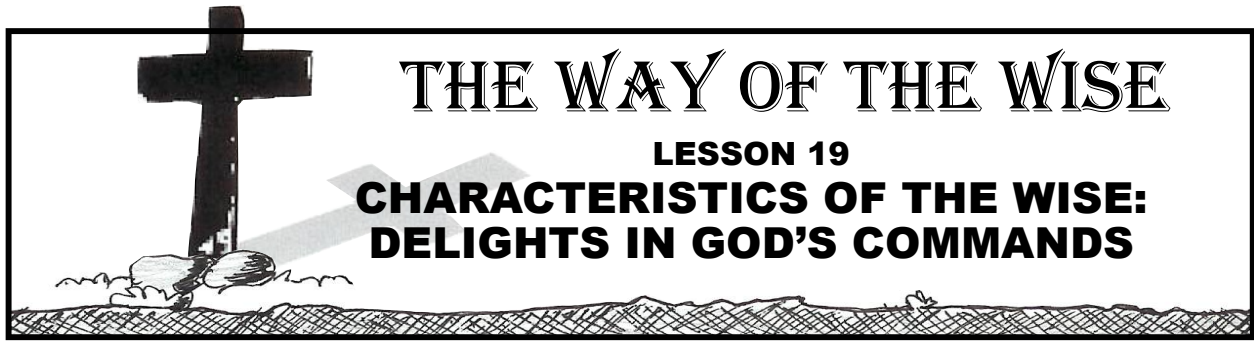
Explain to your child that this week your family is going to concentrate on being “knowledge seekers”. Explain that this will be a very conscious effort by all members of the family. Some of the ways in which your family can seek knowledge are listed below. (You may need to give some practical illustrations so your child understands this list. Also, add any of your own ideas to the list in the blank spots—ask your child to help you think of these ideas to be sure that he understands what it means to “seek knowledge”.)

- † Spend time reading and studying God’s word each day
- † Instead of trying to prove your point in an argument, try to understand the other person’s point of view
- † When one family member is upset with another family member, try to understand why the person is upset, rather than just getting mad
- † Try to understand the reasoning behind a rule or a “no” answer, rather than just reacting
- † Listen carefully to instructions instead of assuming that you already know what to do

At the end of the week, talk about your experience in seeking knowledge. Make some decisions about how you will continue to seek knowledge.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 119:12-16; 112:1; 119:28, 52, 72, 98-99, 103, 105, 130, 133, 165, 173, 18, 36 (Psalm 19:7-11)

KEY VERSE:

Psalm 112:1—Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise man delights in the Lord's commands
- † God gives love for His commands

THIS WEEK:

Make a list of some of the Lord's commands with your child. (You may want to list a scripture reference for each one.)

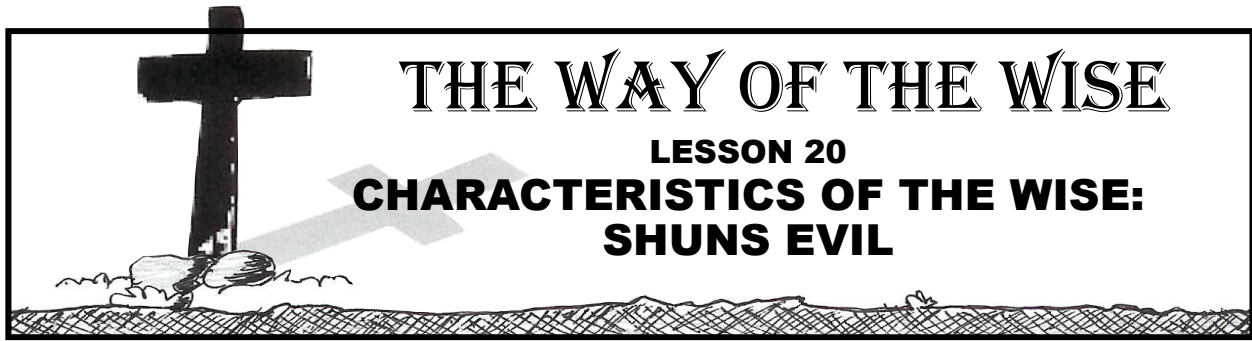
Talk about what it means to "delight" in God's commands (to know that they are for our good and that they are wise, to obey these commands because they are life-giving, and to want to obey them, to enjoy God's commands). Look at the list of commands and discuss what keeps a person from delighting in the commands.

Ask your child to record this week the times in which he delighted in the Lord's commands and the times in which he found it hard to delight in God's commands. At the end of the week, discuss this with your child. (This would be a good exercise for the whole family. You may want to share your own successes and failures with your child.)

Pray as a family about the heart barriers to delighting in God's commands. Pray for each person in the family and ask God to give him a heart that delights in God's commands.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE:

Job 28:28b; Proverbs 14:16; Genesis 39:1-20; Proverbs 8:13;
John 2:13-17; Psalm 141:4 (Psalm 119:136, 127-128)

KEY VERSE:

Job 28:28b—The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise man shuns evil; fools are hotheaded and reckless
- † A wise person turns from evil immediately
- † The wise man more than shuns evil; he hates evil

THIS WEEK:

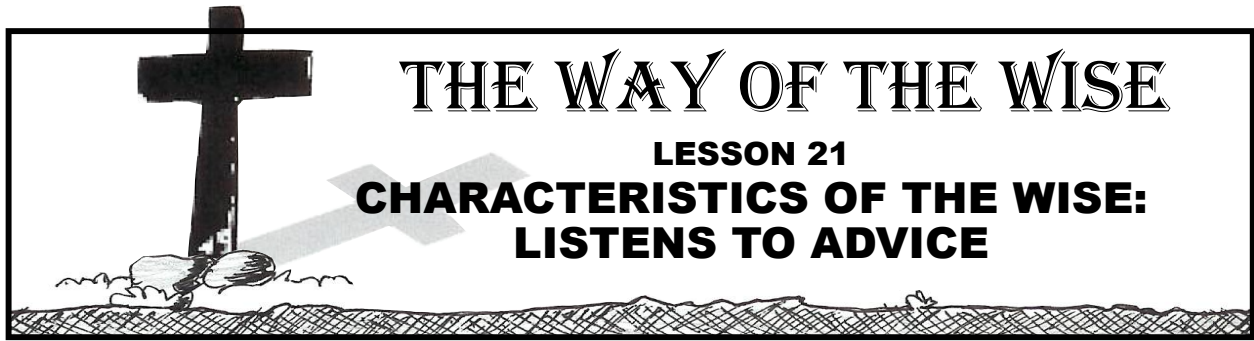
Talk with your child about the influences of this world which are trying to capture the children of God. Give practical illustrations of this. Talk about what makes it difficult to “shun evil” (e.g., peer pressure, our own fleshly desires, ignorance, etc.).

Share with your child a way in which you shun evil and your strategy for turning away from evil. Then ask your child about some way in which he shuns evil.

Note with your family if there are any areas in which your family members are lax in turning from evil immediately. Discuss why this is so and what you will do about it. Pray for one another.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE:

Proverbs 19:20; 1:8-9; 1 Kings 12:1-17; Proverbs 12:15; 1 Samuel 25:1-35
(Proverbs 14:16; 2 Kings 12:1-2)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 19:20—Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise person listens to advice and accepts instruction
- † Good advice points a person toward God and what is good and right; bad suggestions point a person toward what is bad and wrong
- † God sometimes warns us against wrongdoing through the good advice of others
- † Listening to advice and accepting instruction is a matter of right heart attitudes

THIS WEEK:

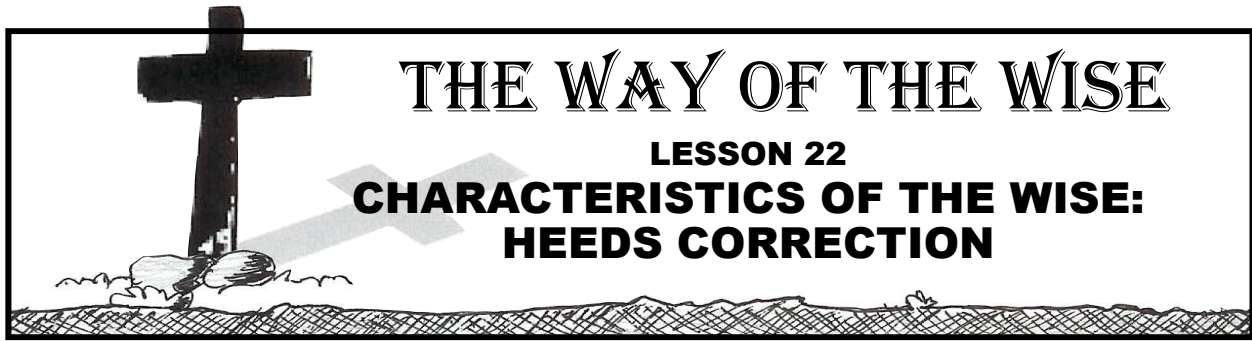
Discuss with your child the heart attitudes that make listening to advice hard (pride, feeling of inferiority, anger, perfectionism, rebellion, etc.) Explain to your child that in order to listen to advice, a person must have a right heart attitude. Share with your child the heart attitudes you struggle with that make it hard for you to accept advice. Encourage your child to share his heart barriers to listening to advice. Pray for each other. (Or discuss this as a family and pray for each other.)

Explain to your family that it is easier to receive advice from some people than from others. Note people that is easy and people that it is difficult to receive advice from. What is the difference in the approach of these people? Discuss the manner of giving advice that makes it hard to receive and the manner than makes it easy to receive. (What manner encourages right heart attitudes on the part of the hearer, and what manner discourages right heart attitudes on the part of the hearer?) Practice ways in which you can give advice in a gentle, humble manner.

Encourage each other when you see another person graciously giving or accepting advice.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE:

Proverbs 3:11-12; 15:10; 2 Samuel 12:1-14; Proverbs 15:31-32 (Proverbs 17:10; 29:1; 13:1; 9:7; 15:5; 13:18; 12:1; 25:12)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 3:11-12—My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

KEY THEMES:

- † God's discipline can be gentle or harsh
- † God disciplines us to teach us to hate sin;
God's discipline is for our own good
- † God only disciplines us as much as is necessary
- † We can respond quickly and positively toward discipline or we can be stubborn and refuse to learn easily

THIS WEEK:

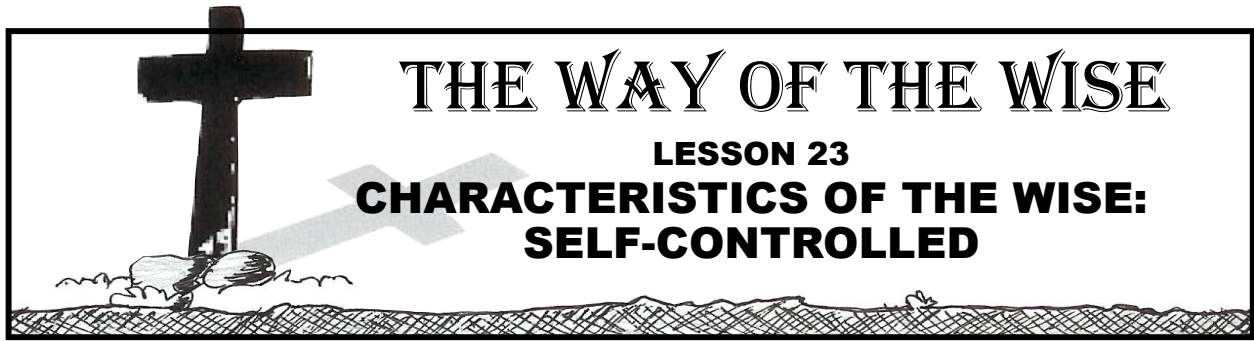
Discuss with your child what it means to "despise discipline" and "resent rebuke". Discuss what causes us to despise discipline and resent rebuke.

Discuss why discipline is good for us and is an act of love. Give some practical examples and encourage your child to give some as well. Discuss the virtue of responding to gentle correction in order to avoid harsh discipline.

Ask your child this week to notice how he reacts to discipline and correction. At the end of the week, ask him to evaluate his attitude toward discipline and correction. Pray together with your child and ask the Lord to give him a positive attitude toward discipline.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE:

Proverbs 29:11; 20:3; 16:32; 21:20; John 18:10a; 2 Samuel 16:5-13 (James 3:1-12; 1 Peter 2:21-23; Proverbs 25:28; 14:29)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 29:11—A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise man has self-control; the fool is impulsive
- † The wise man speaks to himself rather than listening to himself

THIS WEEK:

Discuss with your child the areas in which he exhibits self-control, and the areas in which he needs to gain more self control. Remind your child that lack of self-control is acting on our impulses instead of talking to ourselves and telling ourselves how to react.

Remind your child that one way to gain self-control is to speak to yourself rather than listening to yourself. Explain how important it is to tell yourself what you will do, rather than just following your impulses.

Make a “stoplight” with your child and label it in the following way:

RED—STOP! Don't listen to your “self”.

YELLOW—WAIT! Think, pray, decide, and talk to your “self”.

GREEN—GO! Walk in the way of wise. Act with self-control.

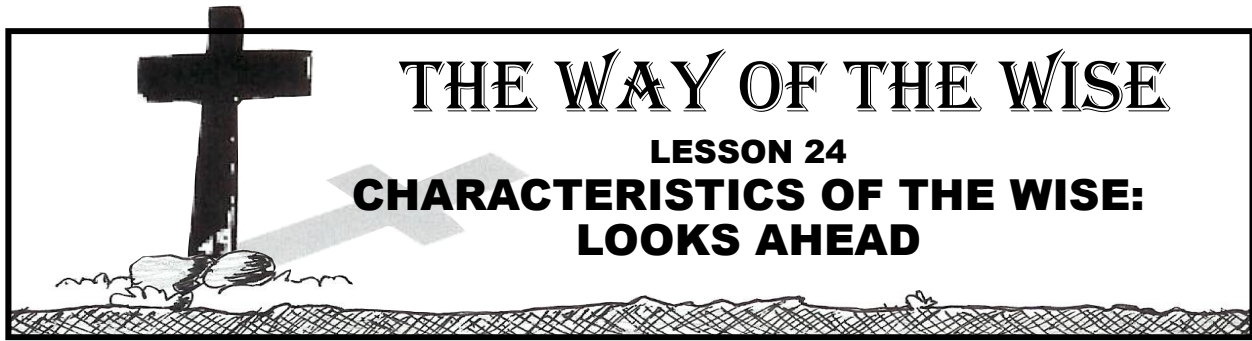
Hang the stoplight in a prominent location as a reminder to your child and the rest of the family.

Help your child this week to go through the “stoplight” steps toward self-control when he faces situations that test his self-control. Remind him that self-control is more than just “practicing the right steps”; it is an attitude of wanting to control our fleshly impulses. The “stoplight” steps are just a tool to train a willing heart.

Encourage your child to pray for a willing heart.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE:

Judges 11; 16:17-21; Proverbs 27:12; 4:27

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 27:12—The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise person looks ahead
- † The wise person sees danger and hides from it (looks ahead and makes good choices)
- † The wise person sees beyond immediate results to eventual consequences
- † The wise person corrects his swerving to the right or the left (corrects a wrong direction or trajectory)

THIS WEEK:

Talk with your child this week about the IMMEDIATE result of bad choices and the EVENTUAL consequences of bad choices. Help him to understand that the pleasures of sin are very short-lived and that sin always carries consequences eventually. Perhaps you can share with him a situation from your childhood when you made a bad choice. Let him know the immediate result and the eventual consequence of that choice.

During the week discuss possible choices to every day situations. Encourage him to use his imagination to “LOOK AHEAD” to the eventual blessing of good choices and the eventual consequences of bad choices. Practice this all week so your child can learn to look ahead to where his attitudes, choices, and actions may lead. Do this by playing a “Suppose...then what?...” game. For example:

Suppose you choose to listen to a CD when you are supposed to be asleep?

[I might be tired in the morning, I might feel guilty, I might be crabby the next day.]

Suppose I found out that you disobeyed...then what?

[I might have to tell dad about it, I might have to go to bed early the next day, I might be punished.]

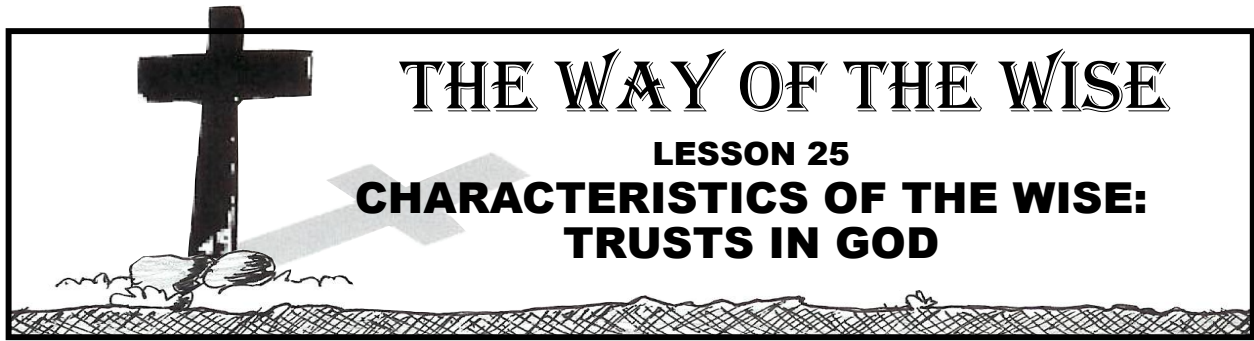
NOTE: Help your child to use his imagination by asking him what words he would use to tell his dad what he did or how he thinks his dad would feel. Ask him how he thinks he might feel when he has to tell his dad.

Suppose you did not get caught...then what?

[I might try to do it again, I might think I can get away with disobeying and I might disobey about other things, I might get a habit of disobeying and being deceitful.]

NOTE: Be sure to help your child see the heart issues involved and the potential spiritual damage that wrong attitudes, choices and actions can cause.

Keep reminding your child this week that the wise person looks ahead to the outcome of his attitudes, choices, and actions and corrects what is wrong or makes a good choice. The wise person looks ahead and avoids danger to his soul.



SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 78:9-22; 125:1-2 (Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 20:6-8)

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 3:5-6—Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise person trusts in God rather than in himself
- † God promises to keep us in the way of the wise—to make us strong
—if we trust in Him

THIS WEEK:

Discuss the memory verse with your child. Talk about what it means to “trust in the Lord with all your heart”, to “lean on your own understanding” and “to acknowledge God in all your ways”. Give practical examples of these concepts.

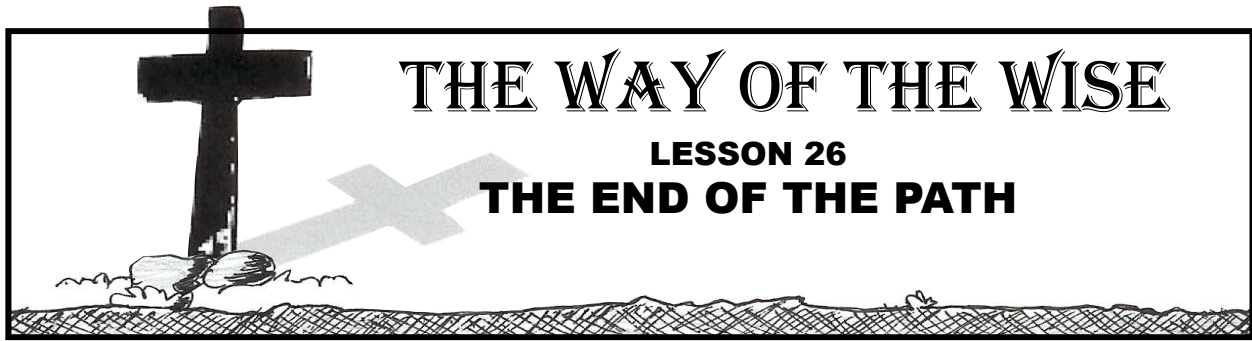
Discuss ways in which we depend on ourselves rather than on God. Help your child to understand how he can trust in God in various areas of his life.

Encourage your child to talk to God about a problem he is having, something that bothers him, something he is concerned about, etc.

Give your child a penny. Point to the inscription at the top (“In God we trust”) and ask him to read it. Suggest to your child that he put the penny in his pocket (or suggest another appropriate location) as a reminder to trust God in all situations.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



THE WAY OF THE WISE

LESSON 26

THE END OF THE PATH

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 73:1-5, 12-14, 16-19; Ecclesiastes 7:4; 7:2 (Luke 12:16-21)

KEY VERSE:

Ecclesiastes 7:2—It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart.

KEY THEMES:

- † The wise man perceives his destination.
- † Focusing on the destination (heaven) helps Christians to persevere.

THIS WEEK:

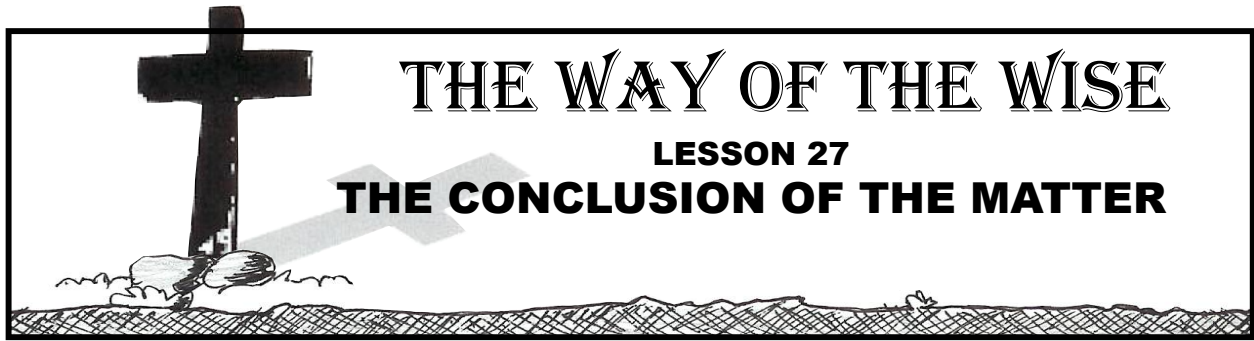
Talk about destinations this week. When you are in the car, talk about where you are going and how you will get there. Look at other cars on the road and guess where the drivers are going. Then talk about the importance of the destination versus the niceness of the car, pointing out that a person could be driving a really nice car but may be going to (name something your child dislikes, such as getting a shot). Show that the destination is more important than the mode of travel.

You may want to take a hike this week to a really nice place (a place that your child would really enjoy). When your child begins to comment on the length of the walk, remind him of the destination and how much fun you will have when you get there. Help your child to see that the destination makes up for the difficulties in getting there. Relate this to traveling along the Way of the Wise on the way to heaven.

Talk about some of the difficulties in walking along the Way of the Wise and why heaven will be worth the effort of persevering in faith. Explain to your child how to look ahead to the reward of heaven as a means of fighting the fight of faith. (You may want to read and discuss Hebrews 10:32–11:40 with your child.)

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 12:13; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 (Romans 1:21)

KEY VERSE:

Ecclesiastes 12:13—Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

KEY THEMES:

- † The most important thing in life is loving and obeying God
- † A person can know about wisdom but not walk the way of the wise;
a person can know about God but not love or honor God

THIS WEEK:

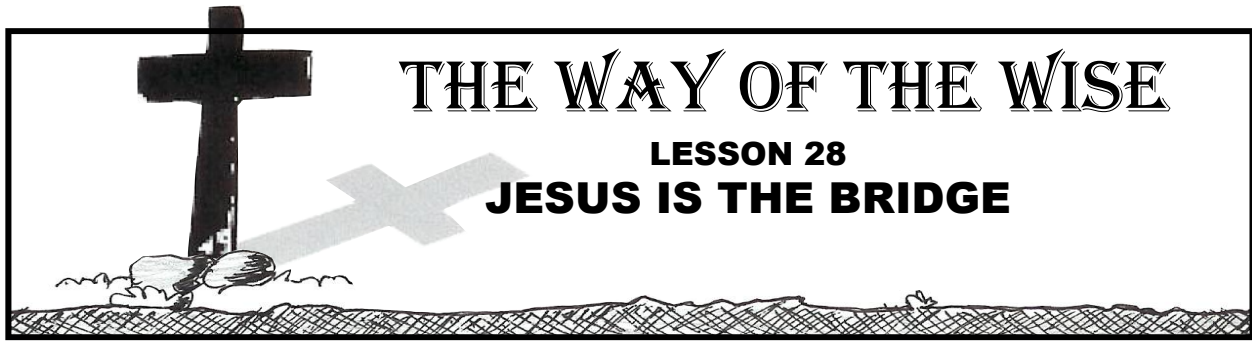
Ask your child to make a list of things that are important to him. (This can range from, “winning Friday’s baseball game”, to “getting a new bike”, to “being a good dad when I grow up”.) Then ask your child to go through the list and mark off the things that will not be important to him 10 years from now. Then mark off the things that will not be important to him when he is 60 years old. Then reduce the list only to the things that will be important in eternity. Discuss with your child what things are of eternal value and why. Ask your child how this should affect the way we live.

If you have opportunity, take your child to an estate sale and let him look around. Impress upon your child, that all the things that once seemed important to a person are all left behind when a person dies and really are not important—they have no lasting value and are sold to other people who will someday leave them behind. Ask your child how important a good job, or a new car, or a great vacation is to a person dying in the hospital.

Discuss Romans 1:21 with your child. Talk about the danger of knowing a lot about the Bible but not honoring or loving God. Give concrete illustrations of this.

Help your child with his proverbs reading and memorizing.

Encourage your child to continue putting the proverbs into practice and filling out his charts until they are completed.



SCRIPTURE: Genesis 18:20-19:26; 1 John 2:15; John 14:6; Isaiah 35:8-10

KEY VERSE:

John 14:6—Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

KEY THEMES:

- † Behaving like a Christian does not make a person a Christian
- † No one can persevere in the way of the wise by his own effort; his heart must be changed to love what is good and right
- † Jesus is the only way to the Father; Jesus is the bridge from the Way of the Fool to the Way of the Wise

THIS WEEK:

Make sure your child understands the message of the gospel. You may use the following explanation or another:

Quest for Joy—Six Biblical Truths

Did you know that God commands us to be glad?

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4)

1)GOD CREATED US FOR HIS GLORY.

"Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth,... whom I created for my glory" (Isaiah 43:6-7)

God made us to magnify his greatness—the way telescopes magnify stars. He created us to put his goodness and truth and beauty and wisdom and justice on display. The greatest display of God's glory comes from deep delight in all that he is. This means that God gets the praise and we get the pleasure. God created us so that he is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.

2)EVERY HUMAN SHOULD LIVE FOR GOD'S GLORY.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

If God made us for his glory, it is clear that we should live for his glory. Our duty

comes from his design. So our first obligation is to show God's value by being satisfied with all that he is for us. This is the essence of loving God (Matthew 22:37) and trusting him (1 John 5:3-4) and being thankful to him (Psalm 100:2-4) It is the root of all true obedience, especially loving others (Col. 1:4-5).

3)ALL OF US HAVE FAILED TO GLORIFY GOD AS WE SHOULD.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

What does it mean to "fall short of the glory of God?" It means that none of us has trusted and treasured God the way we should. We have not been satisfied with his greatness and walked in his ways. We have sought our satisfaction in other things, and treated them as more valuable than God, which is the essence of idolatry (Romans 1:21-23). Since sin came into the world we have all been deeply resistant to having God as our all-satisfying treasure (Ephesians 2:3). This is an appalling offense to the greatness of God (Jeremiah 2:12-13).

4)ALL OF US ARE SUBJECT TO GOD'S JUST CONDEMNATION.

"The wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23).

We have all belittled the glory of God. How? By preferring other things above him. By our ingratitude, distrust and disobedience. So God is just in shutting us out from the enjoyment of his glory forever. "They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might" (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

The word "hell" is used in the New Testament twelve times—eleven times by Jesus himself. It is not a myth created by dismal and angry preachers. It is a solemn warning from the Son of God who died to deliver sinners from its curse. We ignore it at great risk.

If the Bible stopped here in its analysis of the human condition, we would be doomed to a hopeless future. However, this is not where it stops...

5)GOD SENT HIS ONLY SON JESUS TO PROVIDE ETERNAL LIFE AND JOY.

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." (1 Timothy 1:15)

The good news is that Christ died for sinners like us. And he rose physically from the dead to validate the saving power of his death and to open the gates of eternal life and joy (1 Corinthians 15:20). This means God can acquit guilty sinners and still be just (Romans 3:25-26). "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Coming home to God is where all deep and lasting satisfaction is found.

6)THE BENEFITS PURCHASED BY THE DEATH OF CHRIST BELONG TO THOSE WHO REPENT AND TRUST HIM.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out" (Acts

3:19). "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

"Repent" means to turn from all the deceitful promises of sin. "Faith" means being satisfied with all that God promises to be for us in Jesus. "He who believes in me," Jesus says, "shall never thirst" (John 6:35). We do not earn our salvation. We cannot merit it (Romans 4:4-5). It is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is a free gift (Romans 3:24). We will have it if we cherish it above all things (Matthew 13:44). When we do that, God's aim in creation is accomplished: He is glorified in us and we are satisfied in him—forever.

Does this make sense to you?

Do you desire the kind of gladness that comes from being satisfied with all that God is for you in Jesus? If so, then God is at work in your life.

What should you do?

Turn from the deceitful promises of sin. Call upon Jesus to save you from the guilt and punishment and bondage. "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). Start banking your hope on all that God is for you in Jesus. Break the power of sin's promises by faith in the superior satisfaction of God's promises. Begin reading the Bible to find his precious and very great promises, which can set you free (2 Peter 1:3-4). Find a Bible-believing church and begin to worship and grow together with other people who treasure Christ above all things (Philippians 3:7).

The best news in the world is that there is no necessary conflict between our happiness and God's holiness. Being satisfied with all that God is for us in Jesus magnifies him as a great Treasure.

"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." (Psalm 16:11)

By John Piper. ©Desiring God Ministries. Website: www.desiringGOD.org. Email: mail@desiringGOD.org. Toll Free: 888-346-4700.

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