

# Ephesians 5:15-21

## Walking Wisely

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:15-21

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 5:15-16 *"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*

**Lesson Focus:** Paul continues to give practical instructions about the Christian "walk" in this passage contrasting what it looks like to walk wisely and what it looks like to walk foolishly. We hope the kids will be made wiser by this lesson!

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: A Wise Owl

**Starter Activity:** Show Me How You Walk

Consider getting the lesson started with a silly activity that centers on walking. Invite several volunteers up to demonstrate in front of the class alternative ways of walking "from here to there". Several ideas would be walking on tiptoes, walk on heels, crab walk, walk backwards, march, baby steps, giant steps, etc. Either have several written down and have each volunteer come up and pick one or whisper it in their ear. Another idea would be to have several adverbs ready (sadly, proudly, quickly, etc.) and have the kids guess in a charades type of game. \* Make it fun but then transition into the lesson with some discussion:

Not only have you shown me several different walking styles but our study of Ephesians has also shown us several different ways in which we are to walk.

Q: But how is the Bible's teaching about "walking" different?

A: The Bible uses the word "walk" to describe not how we put one foot in front of the other, but about how we live and behave as followers of Jesus. \*

Indeed, the last few lessons we've been challenged by the apostle Paul to walk in love (5:2), to walk in the light (5:8), and to walk in peace (4:3) just like Jesus did. Therefore, if we are "followers" of Jesus, we must follow Him or walk in His ways! \*

Today we're going to learn about some more ways we are to walk and behave as Christians. Let's open our Bibles and learn!

## Bible Study:

**Ephesians 5:15a:** Paul first says that we are to walk or live out our lives circumspectly or "carefully".

Q: What are some places that you might need to take each step very carefully?

A: Stairs, climbing a tree, an icy sidewalk, the edge of a cliff, etc. \*

In each of these situations there is a greater risk of falling or getting hurt so it is important that each step be taken very carefully.

**Ephesians 5:15b:** The verse continues contrasting that which is foolish from that which is wise. Let's apply this to some of these places we were just talking about.

Q: What would be a **foolish** way of walking along the edge of a cliff?

Q: What would be a **wise** way of walking along the edge of a cliff?

You see the difference? But remember the Bible is not talking about how we put one foot in front of the other, but how we live and walk out our Christian lives. Let's talk a little bit more about what the Bible says about the wise and the foolish.

**Psalms 14:1** says, "The **fool** has said in his heart, 'there is no God.'" \*

**Proverbs 28:26** says, "He who trusts in his own heart is a **fool**."

All throughout the Bible, foolishness begins with making God small and making self BIG. On the other hand, let's see what the Bible says about being wise.

**Proverbs 9:10** says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of **wisdom**"

**Hosea 14:9** says, "Who is **wise**? Let him know that the ways of the Lord are right: The righteous walk in them, but sinners stumble in them."

Just like the beginning of foolishness makes God small, the beginning of wisdom makes God BIG! \* Fearing the Lord means we have the highest respect for Him. Notice also how the wise don't just know the Lord's ways, but **walk** in them too! \*

**Ephesians 5:16a:** As the wise person walks out his Christian life he redeems or "makes good use" of his time while the fool wastes his time. This is challenging because if we're honest we probably spend a lot of our time on activities that are wasteful! (**Teachers:** Consider shouting out several common activities and have the kids stand up if they think this activity is "redeeming" their time. Examples: playing video games, reading a book, watching a movie, praying, helping with chores, etc. Have some discussion as there might be some strong differences of opinion!) \*

**Ephesians 5:16b:** Why are we to be wise and redeem the time? Because time is short and there is much evil in the world! \* Remember back in **Ephesians 2:10** we learned that as believers, we are God's workmanship, created by Him to do **good!**

**Ephesians 5:17:** So armed with this purpose from God we are to walk wisely according to His will.

Q: But how do we know what God's will is or what God wants? A: The Bible! \* Here is one important verse that talks about God's will (what He wants):

**John 6:40:** God's will is that you be saved and forgiven through trust in Jesus! This is the first and most important step in walking wisely! \*

**Ephesians 5:18:** God's will is also that we be filled by His Spirit rather than filled by things of this world that ruin us. We will either yield to God or to sin.

Q: Do you think it is wise to be drunk with wine? \* A: NO! Just like the fool that goofs off around the edge of the cliff and falls to his death so is the fool who goofs off with alcohol, drugs, or anything else in the world that can enslave us. \*

**Ephesians 5:19:** God's will is also that we sing to Him! The more you understand what God has done for you, \* the more eager you will be to sing praises to Him! This is why we sing songs at church! If you are afraid to sing out, perhaps it is because you, like the fool, have made God small. The wise person knows God is great and is not afraid to sing out to Him! \* (**Teachers:** Consider ending the lesson with a simple song like "Jesus Loves Me" and invite the whole class to sing with you)

**Ephesians 5:20:** God's will is also that we give Him thanks! The fool dwells more on what he doesn't have in crabbiness while the wise person dwells more on what he does have with a heart of thanksgiving to God.

Q: What is something you can thank God for right now? \* A: Salvation, clothing, a home, a church, good health, hearing, music, chocolate, eyesight, mountains, oceans, toys, pets, and so on!

**Ephesians 5:21:** And finally for our lesson today, God's will is that we be submissive or considerate of another. Not only does the fool make God small but he makes others small too with his focus on self! \* But not with the wise person. In making God BIG, the wise person makes others BIG too, willing to meet their needs and serve them. \*

**Key Point:** So how are you going to "walk" this week? As foolish or as wise? I hope that you have been encouraged to walk wisely. Maybe it's as simple as being more thankful. Or maybe you need to drop some time-wasting activities. Or maybe you simply need to make God BIGGER and more central to your life. In all these things, we must not lose sight of the WHY. We want to walk wisely not to earn God's love or favor, but because we are loved by God! \*

And if you don't think you need God, the Bible calls you a fool! Turn away from that foolishness today while you still have time! Become a follower of Jesus today! \*

# Bring It Home

**P**aul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

*To the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus:*

*Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

## First

Read Ephesians 5:15-16. What does it mean to "redeem the time"? What activities do you have that might be more "time-wasting" than "time-redeeming"?

## Second

Read Proverbs 9:10. If we want to be wise, where do we begin?

## Parent Challenge

Read Ephesians 5:17. What is God's will for you? (See Ephesians 5:18-21 for some ideas)

*By His Grace,*

**P**  
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