

Free Cookies on Wednesday

(The Parable of the Lamp on a Stand)

References

Matthew 5:14-16

The Desire of Ages, “The Sermon on the Mount,” pages 306-307

List of Actors/Readers

Narrators 1-6, Tom, Tiana, Jason, Miguel, Amara, Raquel, Jeff, Principal (non-speaking role)

Suggestions for Presentation

As Readers’ Theater

Place your readers in the following order to maximize story flow:

Narrator 1, Narrator 3, Tiana, Jason, Raquel, Narrator 4, Narrator 6, Amara, Miguel, Narrator 2, Narrator 5, Tom. If it is possible, give Tom his own microphone.

As a Skit

Set up the stage as a school lobby with a backdrop of lockers, a receptionist’s desk or table, a student lounge area, a bookshelf, and doors so that Tom can “find” his friends to share the good news with them in a variety of locations. To catch your viewers off guard, place one of the friends seated in the audience. Have the principal be giving out cookies from the receptionist’s desk and consider handing out a few to the people sitting in the front row seats.

Optional Props

School books, backpacks, soccer gear, books on a bookshelf, sofa for the student lounge area, receptionist’s desk or table, a plate of chocolate chip cookies

Discussion Questions

1. What is the best news you’ve ever received?
2. What kind of events steal the good news about the cookies from Tom’s friends?
3. What good news about Jesus do the cookies in this story represent?
4. How are the cookies in this story and the lamp from Matthew 5 similar? How are they different?
5. Read Jeremiah 31:33; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:14-16; and Galatians 5:22, 23. How is it possible for a person to do “good deeds?”

Narrator 1 Tom was so happy!

Tom I am so happy!

Narrator 2 Why are you so happy?

Tom The principal just told me he is giving away free chocolate chip cookies after school next Wednesday! He asked me to tell everyone!

Narrator 3 And with that, Tom went to find his friends.

Narrator 1 The first friend he saw was Tiana. He was quick to give her the good news.

Tom Tiana, guess what!? The principal is giving away free cookies next Wednesday right after school!

Tiana You're kidding! That's fantastic news! I hope they are the chocolate chip kind. Those are my favorite!

Tom You got it! Remember, free cookies next Wednesday. Tell everyone the great news!

Narrator 4 As Tom went off to find someone else to share the news with, Tiana made a mental note.

Tiana Free cookies, Wednesday. Hey, I've got a math test, a science test, and a spelling test that day — but I should be able to remember such good news as free chocolate chip cookies.

Narrator 5 And with that, Tiana went off to begin studying for her tests. She was pretty distracted by that task and she forgot to tell anyone else the news.

Narrator 6 Soon after, Tom found Jason. He wasted no time and got right to the point.

Tom Jason, guess what!? The principal is giving away free cookies next Wednesday right after school!

Jason You're kidding! That's fantastic news! I hope they are the chocolate chip kind. Those are my favorite!

Tom You got it! Remember, free cookies next Wednesday. Tell everyone the great news!

Narrator 1 As Tom went off to find someone else to share the news with, Jason made a mental note.

Jason Free cookies, Wednesday.

Narrator 2 But just as he was repeating the information, Jason's friend Miguel found him and reminded him of the soccer game after school.

Miguel Hey, Jason! Don't forget the soccer game after school today. We need your talent to win the game!

Jason Don't worry, I'll be there! Now, what was I saying? Oh, yes, soccer game after school.

Miguel That's right! 3:30 on the dot! You have your cleats, right?

Jason I think so. See you then. Soccer game, 3:30, cleats... got it. Seems like there was something else I needed to remember to tell you. Oh, well, if it's that important, I'll remember later.

Narrator 3 And with that, Jason left to make sure his cleats were in his locker, just in case he needed to call his mom to ask her to bring them when she came to watch the game.

Narrator 4 Soon after, Tom found Amara.

Tom Amara, the principal is giving away free cookies next Wednesday right after school!